



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXXIII, Issue 8, AUGUST 2026

## **HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR FRANK O'REILLY SPEAKS ON "THE LAST DAYS OF GENERAL STONEWALL JACKSON" AT THE AUGUST 13th, 2026 MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

The Last Days of Stonewall Jackson recounts the events of that fateful night — considered one of the most pivotal moments of the war — and the tense vigil that ensued as Jackson struggled with a foe even he could not defeat. From Guinea Station, where Jackson crosses the river to rest under the shade of the trees, the story follows Jackson's funeral and burial, the strange story of his amputated arm, and the creation and restoration of the building where he died. Unlike so many who died in the war, Jackson's death made an indelible impression on everyone associated with his last days. We will explore the final days of the general and all the controversies surrounding his passing. With this outstanding presentation, we are delighted to have an old friend and nationally renowned historian visit our Round Table again.

Frank O'Reilly received his BA and MA in American History with a concentration in Early American Military History and Civil War Studies. He did his undergraduate work at Washington & Lee University before joining the National Park Service at the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park. He worked briefly at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, then returned to Fredericksburg as a historian in 1990. He has written numerous articles on the Civil War and Mexican War for national and international journals, and introductions to quite a few books. He released his

### **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**THURSDAY, August 13, 2026**

**6 P.M. Social Hour**

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

### **GUEST SPEAKER:**

**Frank O'Reilly**

### **TOPIC:**

**"The Last Days of General  
Stonewall Jackson"**

first book on the Fredericksburg Campaign, *Stonewall Jackson at Fredericksburg*, in 1993. He has appeared in many documentaries on CSPAN and lectured on military history to audiences around the world, including conferences in the United Kingdom at Oxford. He served as the Sesquicentennial special events coordinator for the Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Overland Campaign 150th anniversary commemorations. His latest book, *The Fredericksburg Campaign: Winter War on the Rappahannock*, was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Letters in 2003. It has won the 2002 Capital District (Albany, NY) Book Award; the 2003 James I. Robertson Jr. Book Award; the 2004 Daniel Laney Book Award; and the 2004 Richard Barksdale Harwell Book Award.

(cont on page 4)

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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 **September 2026 issue**, e-mail articles by **August 24th** to the editor, Don Richardson, at: [don.richardson@erols.com](mailto:don.richardson@erols.com)

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**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"

**October 8** Bryan Cheeseboro - "Early Days of the Civil War Defenses of Washington, from Fort Sumter to 1st Bull Run"

**November 19** Lisa Samia - "Nameless & Faceless of Manassas & Gettysburg"

**December 10** Jonathan Jones - "Opium Slavery: Civil War Veterans And America's First Opioid Crisis"

**January 14, 2027** Jared Peatman - "Hell of a Regiment: The Twentieth Maine"

**February 11, 2027** Edward J. Hagerty - "Soldier of the South: LG Richard H. Anderson At War And Peace"

**March 11, 2027** Theodore Savas - "Handshakes, Gambling & Gunpowder: How George Rains & Jefferson Davis Changed The Course of the Civil War"

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## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By **Melissa A. Winn**

Photos: **Debbie Whitenton**

Happy August! I hope you've all found time this summer to visit a battlefield, explore a museum, pick up a great history book, or simply enjoy conversations with fellow Civil War enthusiasts. One of the greatest strengths of our Round Table is the opportunity to continue learning together, and our August meeting promises to be one you won't want to miss!

We're thrilled to welcome renowned Historian **Frank O'Reilly**, whose presentations are always engaging, insightful, and informative. Frank will take us through the final days of Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, exploring the events surrounding one of the Civil War's most consequential losses. Whether you've studied Chancellorsville for years or are discovering the story for the first time, you're sure to leave with some new information and a new appreciation for the subject!

Even more exciting, Frank will have copies of his highly acclaimed new book about the Battle of Malvern Hill available for purchase: *Retreat from Victory: The Battle of Malvern Hill and the End of the Seven Days, July 1, 1862*. If you've been looking to add one of the year's most talked-about Civil War books to your library—or have it signed by the author—this is your chance! I know I can't wait! We hope you'll take advantage of it and help support one of the leading historians in our field.

Our July meeting featured Scott Mingus, sharing "Human Interest Stories From the Gettysburg Campaign". A good time was had by all.



Looking ahead, make sure you have Sunday, September 20th on your calendars, for our Annual BRCWRT Picnic at The Winery at Bull Run. We'll have the usual delicious picnic food, courtesy of The Bone, as well as our usual friendly fellowship. And see Page 4 for some good news about the expanded availability of our book sales program!

As always, thank you for making the Bull Run Civil War Round Table such an energetic community. Your attendance, volunteer efforts, and enthusiasm are what keep our organization thriving. I look forward to seeing many of you at our August meeting for what promises to be an outstanding evening of history and conversation.

Huzzah!



## SPEAKER INTRODUCTION

Come join us early at our August 13th, 2026 Membership Meeting to have an opportunity to chat with Frank and your colleagues before the meeting begins. Doors open at 6:00 PM; hope to see you there.

## YOU NEED MORE BOOKS!

Well, more Civil War books, anyway...

And we have them. LOTS of them! So many that our storage space is getting pretty crowded. We would like to move more of them, since your small donations for books help fund our Scholarship program and other worthy activities of the Round Table. The problem is that we can only bring a tiny fraction of them to our Membership Meetings, and our members who attend via Facebook Live don't have access to them. We want to change that.

Over recent months, Jerry Watson, Dan Lundeen and Don Richardson have been cataloging our collection (currently at about 650 books but we are not done yet). Our plan is to make the catalog available via the Round Table website, so you can "shop at home". There will be two different versions. Looking for a book by Jeffry Wert? See the *Sorted by Author* listing. Or are you interested in a particular topic, say a biography of John Bell Hood, or a regimental history of the 9th NJ Volunteers? Look in the *Sorted by Category* listing, and scroll down to the sections for Biographies and Units, respectively.

All you will need to do is send us an email with the author(s) and title(s) you want, and we will bring them to the Meeting. If you don't attend in person, you can name a friend who does as your agent, or we can work out other arrangements.

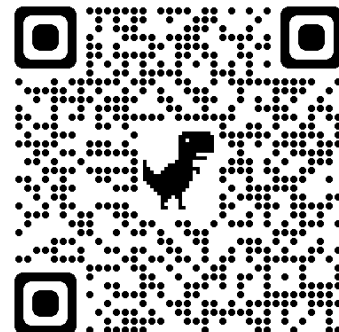
Watch for the official announcement in the October *Stone Wall* for details!

## 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 2026-2027 Program of Events

| Date                        | Event                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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"             |
| September 20, 2026          | <b>10th Annual BRCWRT Picnic at The Winery At Bull Run</b>                                                                                                 |
| 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            | <b>Fall Tour: "Civil War Alexandria (AM) / Fort Ward (PM)"</b><br>Tour leaders Don Hakenson and Chuck Mauro                                                |
| 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"                                                                              |
| February 11, 2027           | Monthly Meeting Speaker: Edward J. Hagerty - "Soldier of the South: Lieutenant General Richard H Anderson at War and Peace"                                |
| March 11, 2027              | Monthly Meeting Speaker: Theodore Savas - "Handshakes, Gambling, & Gunpowder: How George W. Rains and Jefferson Davis Changed the Course of the Civil War" |
| April 8, 2027               | Monthly Meeting Speaker: Dr. Chris Mackowski - "Moments of Contingency And The Rise of U.S. Grant"                                                         |
| May 13, 2027                | Monthly Meeting Speaker: Dean Calbreath - "The Sergeant: Nicholas Said, a Union Army Sergeant"                                                             |
| June 10, 2027               | Monthly Meeting Speaker: Erica Uszak - "Controversies on the Early Gettysburg Battlefield"                                                                 |
| June 22, 2027               | <b>EXTRA Monthly Meeting Speaker: Damian Shiels - "The Irish in the Civil War"</b><br>(Extra meeting via Zoom from Ireland)                                |
| July 8, 2027                | Monthly Meeting Speaker: Shelby Harriel-Hidlebaugh - "Forbidden, Hidden, and Forgotten: Women Soldiers of the Civil War"                                   |
| August 12, 2027             | Monthly Meeting Speaker: Kevin Pawlak and Jeffrey Joyce - "The Battle of Kettle Run, August 27th 1862"                                                     |
| Monthly Meetings in "Black" | <b>Tours/Field Trips &amp; Special RT Events in "Red"</b> <u>County or outside sponsored events in "Green"</u>                                             |

# Bull Run Civil War Roundtable

10th Annual Picnic

Sunday, September 20, 2026

The Winery at Bull Run

Picnic begins at 11:00 am

BBQ Served 12-2 pm

Food Provided by...

**THE BONE**  
hand-shredded pulled pork platter

(OR)

hand-shredded pulled chicken 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) pulled chicken platter @ \$18.00

RSVP at [BRCWRT.org](http://BRCWRT.org)



Silent Auction  
With Civil War Prints  
& Books for Sale!



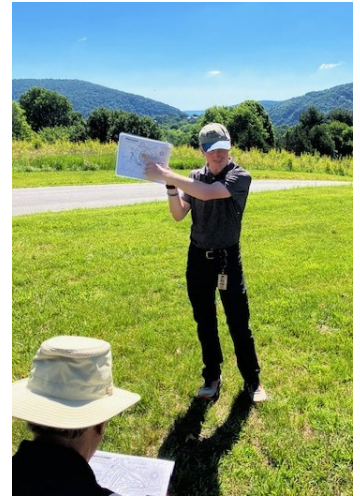
## BRCWRT SPRING TOUR HARPERS FERRY: BEYOND THE RAID

By Sam Laudenslager

It has been nearly a decade since the Bull Run Civil War Round Table last visited Harpers Ferry (May 2017). But June 13<sup>th</sup> was a nearly perfect spring day for a trip to this scenic and historic locale. Our Round Table spring tour viewed several sites that most Harpers Ferry visitors do not get to see. Our tour guide was BRCWRT member Kevin Pawlak - a former National Park Service intern at Harpers Ferry, and co-author of two books describing Harpers Ferry's role during the Civil War.\*



(Left) Potomac Rapids, Harpers Ferry in background, seen from the Harpers Ferry Brewery (Sam Laudenslager)



(Right) Kevin displays a map at Bolivar Heights (Sam Laudenslager)

After our caravan assembled at the National Park Service Visitor Center, our tour began at the Bolivar Heights overlook, west of the Harpers Ferry "lower town". Kevin described the Harpers Ferry topographic features: the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers, surrounded by the Maryland Heights to the east, Loudoun Heights to the south, and Bolivar Heights to the west. He then summarized the role of Harpers Ferry during the early Industrial Revolution: the junction of the Chesapeake & Ohio canal, the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, and the Winchester & Potomac railroad; and as a "mill town" of 3000 people, hosting a saw mill, several grain mills, a rifle factory, an armory, and the arsenal.

Our morning itinerary focused on the Battle of Bolivar Heights, during the Siege of Harpers Ferry (Sept. 12-15, 1862). Kevin noted that "but for timing and contingency" at Bolivar Heights, the siege of Harpers Ferry, or the battle of Antietam, or the entire Maryland Campaign could very easily have gone the other way.

When the Army of Northern Virginia reached Frederick, MD, during his first "Northern Incursion", General Robert E. Lee issued Order #191 dividing the ANV into three Corps. Lee had the problem of moving an entire army over the few passes over South Mountain, but with the payoff of a good network of north-south roadways

\* "John Brown's Raid: Harpers Ferry & the Coming of the Civil War", and "To Hazard All: A Guide to the Maryland Campaign, 1862" (both part of the Emerging Civil War series, Savas Beatie Publishing)

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## HARPERS FERRY

(the Boonsboro, Sharpsburg, Hagerstown, Winchester-Martinsburg Pikes) waiting on the other side. These roads also offered the logistic benefit of an ample supply of forage for the ANV's troops, cavalry and transport support animals. If Lee could consolidate his dispersed columns near the Maryland-Pennsylvania border, he could threaten Carlisle, Harrisburg, and Baltimore, and maybe influence the coming mid-term elections. If Lee could prevail in a general engagement with the Army of the Potomac, he might even win the war.

Faced with the ANV's losses at Fox's Gap, Turner's Gap, and Crampton Gap on South Mountain, Lee had to regroup at Sharpsburg, where he AGAIN divided his forces. He could not leave the threat of a 12,000-man Federal garrison at Harpers Ferry in his rear. While Lee deployed his main force and Longstreet's corps in a defensive line along Antietam Creek, he dispatched Lafayette McLaws' command (of Longstreet's corps) to the Maryland Heights above the Potomac River headwaters, and Stonewall Jackson's command against the Federal defensive lines atop Schoolhouse Ridge above Harpers Ferry town.

If Gen. McClellan's headquarters had had better intelligence and more initiative at this stage of the campaign, the Army of the Potomac might have trapped Jackson's command in the Bolivar "triangle" to the west of Harpers Ferry, or trapped McLaws' command in the adjacent "triangle" overlooking Harpers Ferry "Lower Town", or BOTH! Instead, Jackson launched a general assault (a "diversionary feint") against the Federal entrenchments atop Bolivar's Schoolhouse Ridge. Meanwhile, A.P. Hill's Light Division executed a decisive flank attack down the C & O Canal/Shenandoah River shore towards Murphy Farm hill.

While we were at "Jackson's Overlook", on School House Ridge Road, Kevin pointed out that this tree line was not there in September of 1862. The slopes had been cleared. The trees were all used to line Federal trenches near the top of the hill, or for sharpened stakes - "abatis" - obstacles dug into the incline of the ridge. These trench lines were manned by troops of three of the Federal brigades (Ford, Trimble, D'Utassy) at Harpers Ferry, plus 25 Napoleon field guns (10,000-12,000 troops total).

Kevin pointing at School House Ridge, toward the Federal defensive line  
(Sam Laudenslager)



Stonewall Jackson recognized the problem of directly attacking this strong Federal position. He had witnessed Confederate attacks on Malvern Hill and Harrison Landing fail during the recent Peninsula campaign, and he recognized that a frontal assault on School House Ridge could not work. He might gain the position, but it would be costly in casualties. It would also take too much time. If Jackson's corps was needed to consolidate with Lee's force at Sharpsburg, time was of the essence. Jackson would deploy Gen. A.R. Lawton's division from the area near "Allstadt's Ordinary", along the base of the Ridge. Lawton sent skirmish lines against the Schoolhouse Ridge works as a feint. But the real action would take place several miles further down School House road at the Murphy farm.

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## HARPERS FERRY

An important stop during our BRCWRT field trip was the Murphy-Chambers farmhouse on School House ridge. This location attracts few visitors at Harpers Ferry, but actually is where Gen. Jackson's attack succeeded, thereby ending the 1862 siege with an ANV tactical victory. As previously mentioned, School House Ridge was heavily defended by the Federal garrison at Harpers Ferry. Stonewall Jackson avoided this frontal assault problem by outflanking the entrenched Federals.

The Federal commander at Harpers Ferry was Col. Dixon Miles. Miles is often described by historians as incompetent, and possibly imbecilic (early Alzheimer's). Kevin provided our group with a more sympathetic portrayal of Miles, noting that while Miles (born 1804) was "Army Old" (aged 58), Miles was also "old", as in "old school"; a West Pointer (class of 1824) who had previously served out West during the Mormon War and Indian campaigns. Miles had a reputation for following his orders strictly to the letter. But at Harpers Ferry, Miles had to deal with inconsistent orders.

Maj. Gen. George McClellan, commander of the Army of the Potomac, encouraged Miles to evacuate Harpers Ferry and march to link up with and reinforce the approaching AOP. Meanwhile, General-in-Chief Henry Halleck, in Washington, telegraphed to Miles: "Defend all places to the last extremity; there must be no abandoning of post". On the night of Sept. 13th, Miles informed his officers "I am ordered to hold this place, and God damn my soul if I don't." On the evening of Sept. 15th, Miles would be mortally wounded by shrapnel from Confederate artillery shells (near the Schoolhouse Ridge-Charlestown Pike crossroads.)



Kevin lectures our group at the Murphy farmhouse (Teresa Haskins)



BRCWRT members re-enact A.P. Hill's artillerist "prolonge" at Murphy House ridge (Teresa Haskins)

Col. Miles' defensive line extended along the length of School House Ridge, ending near the Charlestown Turnpike (US 340 today). The area south of Charlestown Pike was heavily wooded and filled with ravines. There were two small farm fields

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## HARPERS FERRY

belonging to the Murphy family and the home of Unionist Edmund Chambers. Just past the Chambers house the ridge ends at a 300 foot bluff dropping down to the Shenandoah River, with a narrow road separating the bluff from the river bank. Miles thought that these geographic defenses were sufficient, but posted two regiments (3rd Maryland and 12<sup>th</sup> NY) at the Murphy-Chambers gap as a precaution.

Gen. Jackson took advantage of this gap. While sending Lawton's Division from their Allstadt House muster point near School House Ridge as a "frontal assault" diversion, he sent two of A.P. Hill's best brigades (BG's Lawrence Branch and Maxey Gregg's Carolinians) down the riverside road to scale the hill; 10 regiments to overwhelm Miles' two regiments atop the bluff.

A.P. Hill's brigades not only routed the Federal troops near Chambers-Murphy house, they used a "prolonge" (rope hoist) to lift 4 batteries of fieldpieces (12-14 guns total, at 1-1/2 tons per gun) up the bluff to the open fields next to Murphy House. From this high ground, Confederate heavy artillery atop Loudoun Heights and Maryland Heights could shell Harpers Ferry with bombs and shrapnel, while these Confederate field batteries at Murphy House could clear Harpers Ferry streets with grape and canister. CHECKMATE! Col. Miles rode out along his School House Ridge line, waving a white cloth to surrender. But Confederate batteries, a mile away on Loudoun Heights, could not see Miles through the cannon smoke, and kept firing. For the Union garrison, and for Col. Miles, literally, it was "GAME OVER!"

Allstadt's Corner was our remaining stop while on Bolivar Heights. Jacob Allstadt operated a Toll House on the Harpers Ferry-Charlestown Turnpike. Allstadt's house (c. 1790) and "Ordinary" (tavern) has recently been acquired by American Battlefield Trust and transferred to the National Historical Park. This location figured as the assembly/jump-off point for BG John R. Jones ANV division during Stonewall Jackson's feint against the Federal defensive line on Schoolhouse Ridge (September 14, 1862). It also begins the story for our group's afternoon visit to the John Brown - Kennedy farm house site.



Allstadt house/ordinary (Sam Laudenslager)

Here, early (about 3:00 am) on the morning of October 17th, 1859, five of John Brown's raiders, led by John Cook, captured John Allstadt, his son John Thomas, and seven of Allstadt's slaves. The Allstadt party was taken to the Armory Engine House and held as hostages by John Brown's raiders. Remarkably, all of the Allstadt group survived the storming of "John Brown's Fort" on October 18th.

After a morning of sightseeing at the Bolivar battlegrounds, our 5-vehicle caravan drove across Harpers Ferry, then along a narrow 1-lane Sandy Hook road parallel to the Potomac Rapids and the old C & O Canal bed, and finally

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## HARPERS FERRY

up a winding mountain road (with the fitting Alpine name Hoffmeister Road) towards the crest of Maryland Heights. Although much of John Brown's initial planning actually took place in Mary Ritner's Boarding House (Chambersburg, PA), it is at the Kennedy Farmhouse, during July to mid-October 1859, that John Brown organized his storied Harpers Ferry Raid.



It is not hard to understand why Brown selected this location to make his final preparations for the raid; it was just 5 miles from the B & O railway bridge and the Federal Arsenal, yet it was sufficiently remote to avoid inadvertent attention from any nosy neighbors. Today, the Kennedy Farm site is maintained by the John Brown Historical Foundation. It is open to visitors "By Appointment Only". Our BRCWRT group was fortunate to have Sprigg Lynn, Director of the Historical Foundation, escort our visit at the Kennedy Farm.

Sprigg's opening presentation covered a lot of historical ground. He described the Booth Kennedy House as an architectural landmark (original log cabin c. 1840), provided information about the development of the American anti-slavery movement, covered John Brown's early background as a son of a prominent Abolitionist pastor, and regaled us with several good stories relating to Brown's exploits as a Freedom Fighter in Bloody Kansas.

Sprigg then led us up "Kennedy's Grassy Knoll" to the log farm house "where it all began!" Brown rented the farmhouse from the heirs of a locally esteemed and recently deceased physician, Dr. Booth Kennedy. The house offered 2 first floor bedrooms. Brown took one for his own quarters. He



Kevin lectures our group at Allstadt's Ordinary (Teresa Haskins)

John Brown National Historic Landmark sign (Gary Haskins)



Sprigg Lynn speaks to our group at the Kennedy Farmhouse (Teresa Haskins)

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## HARPERS FERRY

used the entry bedroom for an office, from which he corresponded with fellow Abolitionists including Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass, his "Secret Six" financiers, etc. The ground floor stored weapons, ammunition, and other supplies. A narrow staircase led up to an attic which became a classroom and barracks for Brown's 21-man Army of Abolition. The adjoining fields became the drill ground for Brown's recruits, and the surrounding woods were ideal for holding (and hiding) target practice.



Kennedy Farmhouse at Grassy Knoll  
(Sprigg Lynn)



Sprigg and Alan Day at John Brown's desk  
(Gary Haskins)



Kennedy attic "barracks" (Gary Haskins)



Our BRCWRT group at John Brown Raiders  
memorial stone (Teresa Haskins)

As one member stated after Sprigg's tour "It was 84 degrees outside, but as we stood in the same room with John Brown at his desk, where it all began, I felt chills run up and down my back!" An apropos comment for a successful Round Table tour!

(cont on page 13)



## HARPERS FERRY

Partially hidden behind the tree line to the rear of the Kennedy farm house is a large, whitewashed cinder block building that previously housed tractors, trucks and other farming/industrial equipment. It is a bit of an eyesore, especially when viewed so near the c. 1840 Kennedy farm log cabin. However, this structure is a landmark within the Black American community, and is iconic for Soul and Rock music fans. Under the care of the John Brown Historical Foundation, it is also becoming a case study for historic preservation efforts.



IBPOEW Elks Hall (Gary Haskins)



IBPOEW Elks floor logo (Gary Haskins)

In 1949, a national fraternal organization, the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World (or "Black Elks") purchased the 235-acre parcel surrounding the farmhouse from Booth Kennedy's descendants. IBPOEW acquired the property to erect a memorial to John Brown and his fellow "freedom fighters".

During the 1950s-1960s racial segregation era, the Elks meeting place became a popular dance hall, hosting both Blacks and Whites, and featuring Rhythm and Blues and Rock & Roll entertainers. Many performers who appeared at the Elks Hall are now enshrined in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, including James Brown, Chuck Berry, Ray Charles, Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, Little Richard, and the Temptations.



Chitlin Circuit poster (Gary Haskins)



John Brown to James Brown (Gary Haskins)

(cont on page 14)



## HARPERS FERRY

Elks Hall is currently NOT open for public viewing. However, Sprigg Lynn opened its doors for our group, enabling us to have a rare look inside. Elks Hall is a work in progress, more resembling a Home Depot lumber warehouse than the lively weekend dance hall of its early days. The Bull Run Civil War Round Table deeply appreciates Sprigg Lynn's escorting us at Kennedy Farm, and the support of the John Brown Historical Foundation, for our Round Table field trip to "Harper's Ferry: Beyond the Raid."

\*\*\*\*\*



Evan Phifer writes the following:

My first memory of interest in the Civil War is from one of two events from my early childhood. I cannot recollect which came first. When I was about seven years old, my Dad came back from a conference in Gettysburg with the gift of a Gettysburg playset with Union and Confederate soldiers, cannon, horses, snap-together Lee's and Meade's headquarters, and figures of Generals Lee, Longstreet, Meade, and Hancock (I repurposed Longstreet as Armistead when playing out Pickett's Charge). The second occasion was a book I found in my grandparents' house: *The Civil War: Volume 8 of the American Heritage New Illustrated History of the United States*. With Thure de Thulstrup's painting of the Third Battle of Winchester on the cover, I was hooked.

Majoring in history as an undergrad and receiving an MA in Public History, I have worked in the museum field in both Washington, D.C. and the Chicago area. Having spent most of my life in the Washington, D.C area, my wife and I relocated for the past several years in Chicago. Returning to this area, it is great to be back in such a rich area of Civil War history.

My current interest is researching and writing individual stories, as well as the larger historical context, surrounding the Medal of Honor during the Civil War and its aftermath. I currently write a column for Military Images magazine, *The Honored Few*, that explores Civil War Medal of Honor recipients.

## IMAGE OF THE MONTH

By Don Richardson

Jim Gilbert, one of my volunteer guide colleagues at Bristoe Station Battlefield Park, tipped me off to this front page report of the Battle of Bristoe Station on October 14, 1863. The New York Herald devoted its entire front page to coverage of the battle, including a map of the area of operations, casualty reports, and General Meade's Order of the Day congratulating MG Gouverneur Warren and his troops for their performance that day. (Warren would later receive a brevet promotion to Major General in the Regular Army in recognition of his leadership at Bristoe.)

An interesting detail appears in the lower left corner - a report of the earlier action at Auburn. What makes this interesting is that the byline is that of a reporter named D. P. Coningham. If that name sounds familiar to you, it should. David Power Coningham was an Irish revolutionary, novelist, newspaper editor, historian, and war correspondent, who served for a time on the staff of Gen. Thomas Meagher of the Irish Brigade. Among his many publications was his 1867 history *The Irish Brigade And Its Campaigns*, one of the best contemporary accounts of that famous unit.

**THE NEW YORK HERALD.**

WHOLE NO. 2851. NEW YORK, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1863. PRICE THREE CENTS.

**IMPORTANT NEWS.**

**The Battle at Bristoe Station.**

**A DECIDED UNION VICTORY.**

**General Meade's Congratulatory Order of the Day.**

**Capture of an Entire Rebel Battery.**

**Two Battle Flags and About Seven Hundred and Fifty Prisoners.**

**THE REBEL GENERAL COCKE KILLED.**

**About Five Hundred Rebels Killed and Wounded Left Upon the Battle Field.**

**Death of Acting General Mallon, of the Tenth Army.**

**THE CASUALTIES.**

**REBELS KILLED NINE AT AUBURN FORD.**

**THE BATTLE AT BRISTOE STATION.**

**The Field of Operations of the Forces of Meade and Lee in Virginia.**

**THE FIELD OF OPERATIONS.**

The following is a partial list of the names of the officers who were killed or wounded in the battle at Bristoe Station, as reported by the Herald.

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# Civil War Alexandria (BRCWRT Walking Tour) Saturday, October 17, 2026



## TOUR STOPS:

- (Morning) Walking Tour of Civil War sites in Old Town Alexandria, including the Lyceum and Athenaeum (meeting halls that hosted raucous pro-Union and pro-Secession rallies before the hostilities).
- The Marshall House Hotel location where Col. Ellsworth was martyred.
- The Grosvenor military hospital complex, featured in the PBS “Mercy Street” series.
- (Afternoon) Fort Ward, one of DC/Virginia’s best-preserved Civil War fortifications.

TOUR GUIDES: Don Hakenson & Chuck Mauro (Old Town), Susan Cumbey (Fort Ward).

COST: The Old Town Walking Tour is FREE! Fort Ward \$10, pay at the museum.

MAXIMUM ATTENDEES: 25

MEET: 9:00 AM at Fort Ward Park, 4301 West Braddock Rd (near I-95 Duke St exit). Assemble at Fort Ward Amphitheatre parking lot (NOT the Museum lot). Carpool to the limited reserved parking at the Lyceum. Tour starts at 9:30 AM in the Lyceum Lecture Hall (2<sup>nd</sup> floor).

RAIN DATE: There is no rain date due to lack of availability of guides and the Lyceum.

DRESS: Appropriate dress for local weather conditions. Wear comfortable walking shoes; canes or walking sticks if needed (Old Town sidewalks are truly “Colonial Era”).

LUNCH: Cooper’s Mill, a modern Pizzeria in a building with a unique Civil War flavor. After lunch, walk back to Lyceum and carpool back to Fort Ward Museum

TOUR DURATION: Walking tour approximately 2 hours/2 miles, Fort Ward 90 minutes.

SIGN UP ONLINE: See the top of the Round Table webpage, <https://brcwrt.org>

BRCWRT Contact: Sam Laudenslager – [kapel-meister1@hotmail.com](mailto:kapel-meister1@hotmail.com), 703-338-3358

## SAVE OLD BENNETT SCHOOL

By Tim Duskin

George Carr Round was a Union Army Signal Corps veteran from New York who settled in Manassas in 1868. He served there as the town's first superintendent of public schools, a charter member of the Manassas Town Council, town clerk, and a member of the Virginia General Assembly and the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1868. He organized the Manassas National Jubilee of Peace, which took place on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Battle of Bull Run or Manassas in July 1911, and was an advocate of the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Upon his death in 1918, he was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. The George C. Round Elementary School in Manassas, which was built in 1986, was named for him.

As the town's first superintendent of public schools, he helped establish the Old Bennett School. He mentioned the circumstances of its establishment in an article he wrote for the *Manassas Journal*, which appeared in the May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1914 issue of that newspaper. The article was about the Battle of Bristoe Station in 1863 and was entitled "The Third Bull Run." The writer mentioned in his previous article in the July issue of the *Stone Wall* that the Old Bennett School was built over the graves of Civil War soldiers as a memorial to them. Thus, it is also their grave marker. Round wrote of this in his article. He stated:

"I have no doubt but the dead found buried at the northwest corner of the school building, on scooping out the foundation, fell in the fighting referred to by Comrade Collins."

Round here refers to R.J. Collins of the 1<sup>st</sup> New York Dragoons and the fighting he refers to was the Battle of Bristoe Station. Round said that the school was built "on the identical ground where the New York Dragoons held their horses and slept on the ground half a century ago." Round continued:

"He thinks there were eight or ten killed on each side. One of the bones found showed an amputation near the hip, which proves that a temporary hospital had been located there. The dead were buried in rough caskets and the boards showed signs of having passed through the fire and were no doubt made from some remnants from the rough warehouses and barracks burned on the occupancy of the town in one of the campaigns named."

The three "campaigns" Round named in his article were First Bull Run or Manassas in 1861, Second Bull Run or Manassas in 1862, and Bristoe Station in 1863. He also wrote:

"It is interesting to recall in closing that when the remains of the men who fell in this third Bull Run campaign were discovered, it was agreed by Mayor Thomas O. Taylor, on behalf of the Confederates, and the writer, an ex-Union soldier and a school trustee, that we should rebury the bones of the veterans at the northwest corner and let the magnificent school building, one of the finest in the state, go up as their monument. A few days after this was done, Gen. Henry M. Nevius, the commander-in-chief of the Grand Army [of the Republic], visited me, and on hearing the story asked the

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## OLD BENNETT SCHOOL

privilege of sending us an elm tree from Red Bank, N.J., to be set out on the spot, which tree is now putting forth the green leaves of hope.”

“It is probable that all who fell at the time on both sides were buried together. The number from my observation must have been from 15 to 20, which corresponds to Comrade Collins’ remembrance, as he thinks 8 or 10 were killed on each side.”

*Inside NOVA Prince William* for July 23-30, 2026 reported, “The Prince William Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to authorize a change order for the judicial center expansion project in Manassas, greenlighting the demolition of the adjacent Old Bennett School on the soon-to-be-upgraded courthouse grounds.” The article also reported, “Tuesday was the 165<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Battle of Bull Run, also known as the First Battle of Manassas – which took place on July 21, 1861.” The vote was seven to one in favor. Colin Turner is heading Save Old Bennett School. He was quoted in the article as saying that “county staff still have not yet explained what happens if the commonwealth determines those graves cannot be removed.” Save Old Bennett School has a Facebook page. It also has a website at <https://saveoldbennettschool.com> for their effort to save the old school building, which is the grave marker and monument for those soldiers buried there.

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## CIVIL WAR SHOW AND SALE

Here’s an opportunity for BRCWRT members, courtesy of your fellow members Don Hakenson and Bud Mayo.

The 6th annual *Civil War and Militaria Show and Sale* will be held on Saturday, September 19 from 9:00-4:00 at the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd, Fairfax VA (1 mile from Beltway Exit Route 50 West). Books, Relics, and Memorabilia from ALL wars will be sold!

All members of the BRCWRT will receive FREE admission.

Vendors are welcome. For additional information or vendor registration contact:

Don Hakenson [dhakenson@verizon.net](mailto:dhakenson@verizon.net) (703-971-4984), or

Bud Mayo [mayo5304@cox.net](mailto:mayo5304@cox.net) (703-389-1505).



## **CIVIL WAR TRAVELS WITH MS. REBELLE**

**By Janet Greentree**

### **Major General James Birdseye McPherson, USA**

The first thing to talk about is how General James Birdseye McPherson pronounced his name. It was mac-fur-sen. He told people that “there is no fear in McPherson.” His middle name is pronounced Bird-zee rather than Birds-eye. The Birdseye name was not a family name. It was common in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to give a middle name to a person of a historical figure, family friend, or religious figure. That person was named James Birdseye. He was a wealthy New York contractor. He travelled to the Sandusky area of Ohio with James’ father William to scout land. James Birdseye built the first bridge across the Sandusky River. William named his first son James Birdseye McPherson after his friend.

James was born on November 14, 1828 in Clyde, Sandusky Co., Ohio to William Russell McPherson and Cynthia Russell. His heritage was Irish-Scottish. His Irish ancestors were from Northern Ireland. James was the oldest of four children. His siblings were Emaline Elizabeth (Van der Cock), Russell Bigelow (also named for a family friend, and later worked for the Government Railroad in Memphis), and William H. (Billy), who served in the Union Army during the Civil War. He took over his father’s farm after the war. Their grandparents were John McPherson and Elizabeth McPherson, who was a first half-cousin to her husband John McPherson. His Great-Grandparents were John McPherson and Elizabeth Jane Shaw. His 2<sup>nd</sup> Great-Grandparents were James William McPherson, III and Martha Long. His ancestors through 2<sup>nd</sup> Great-Great Grandparents were all born in America.



James’ father William was a farmer and blacksmith in Sandusky. He had a history of mental illness and became unable to work when James was only 13. Being the oldest child on a 160 acre farm, James took a job at the Green Spring Store owned by Robert Smith to help support the family. James’ father died in 1847. In 1849 at the age of 19, James received an appointment to West Point with the help of Robert Smith. James had worked for Robert Smith for six years supporting his mother and siblings. Due to his limited education while supporting his family, he spent a year preparing for West Point at Norwalk Academy, 25 miles from his home. The academy was later a Methodist Seminary. President Rutherford B. Hayes also studied there.

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## MS. REBELLE

James graduated from West Point at the top of his class in 1853. He excelled academically, developing into a skilled engineer, horseman, and tactician. He was appointed a 2<sup>nd</sup> LT. in the Army Corps of Engineers. Being first in his class intrigues me. Did you know that there were nine Union Civil War Generals who were No. 1 in their class? John Gross Barnard (1833), Andrew Jackson Swift (1838), Henry Wagner Halleck (1839), William Buel Franklin (1843), Quincy Adams Gillmore (1849), George Washington Cullum (1833), Ranald Sudell Mackenzie (1862), and John Rodgers Meigs (1863). The Confederates had four: William Henry Chase Whiting (1845), Robert Stockwell Williamson (1848), Walter Hustead Stevens (1848), and George Washington Custis Lee (1864), who beat his father Robert E. Lee, who only finished second.



Cadet James B. McPherson

Civil War Generals who were in the class of 1853 at West Point were Confederates William Robertson Biggs, John Stevens Bowen, Henry Brevard Davidson, John Bell Hood, James Argyle Smith, William Ruffus Terrill, and Henry Harrison Walker. The Union Generals included Alexander Chambers, Philip Henry Sheridan, Joshua Woodrow Sill, William Sooy Smith, and Robert Ogden Tyler. James' roommate John Bell Hood would later play a big role in his life. James was offered a job at West Point after graduation as an Assistant Instructor of Practical Engineering. He was the youngest instructor ever to teach after graduation.

After a year at West Point, he worked on the defenses of New York harbor on the Hudson River, the construction of Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island, and fortifications for Alcatraz Island in San Francisco. In 1859 the U.S. Army built a three-story defensive fortress and barracks atop the highest point of the island. It was known as the "Alcatraz Citadel" or "Fort Alcatraz". It was later used to house prisoners during the Civil War. He was appointed a first lieutenant in 1858.



When the Civil War began McPherson was sent back east to Massachusetts, where he organized engineering troops for the Civil War. In November, 1861 he was an aide-de-camp for General Henry Halleck, working as an Assistant Engineer in the Department of the Missouri in St. Louis for a brief time. He was made a Lt. Colonel by Gen. Halleck.

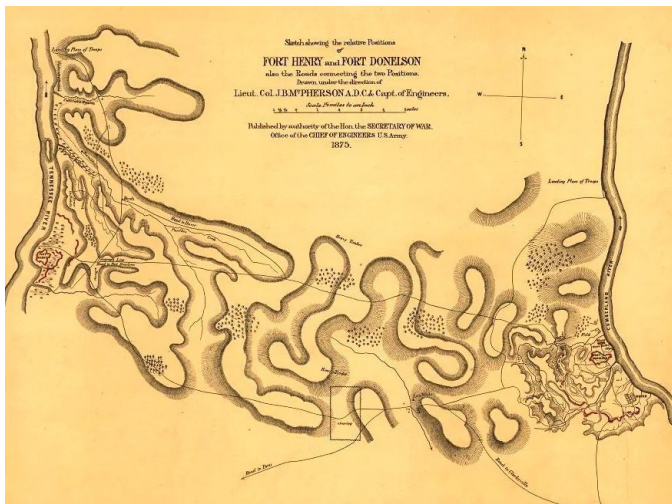
While in San Francisco in 1859, he met Harriet "Emily" Hoffman from a prominent Baltimore family at a party. There was an immediate mutual attraction between them. He was 30 years old,

(cont on page 21)

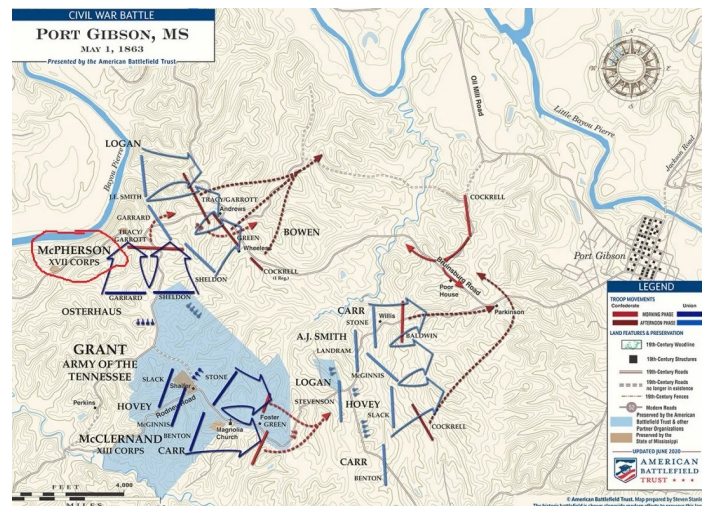
## MS. REBELLE

handsome, intellectual, and elegant. Emily was blue-eyed, beautiful, and blonde. Sadly I could find no picture of her. Her family fiercely supported the Confederacy and did not approve of her marrying a Yankee. Her mother with other women sewed clothing for the cause. Her brother Richard was a Confederate soldier under Gen. Stonewall Jackson. Emily had come to California to help her sister with her children. James and Emily became engaged and were planning their wedding. The wedding kept getting put off because of the Civil War.

On March 12, 1864 after being confirmed a brigadier general commanding the Army of the Tennessee, he again requested leave to go home to marry Emily. His leave was granted but the Atlanta Campaign got in their way. Gen. Sherman wrote her a letter trying to cheer her up. One of his paragraphs stood out to me: "I know McPherson well, as a young man, handsome & noble soldier, activated by motives as pure as those of Washington, and I know that in making my testimony to his high & noble character I will not offend the Girl he loves. Be patient and I know that when the happy day comes for him to stand by your side as one being identical in heart & human existence you will regard him with a high respect & honor that will convert simple love into something sublime & beautiful. Yours with respect W.T. Sherman." (See next to last paragraph for more information about Emily's Baltimore home.)



Map of Fts. Henry and Donelson



McPherson at Port Gibson

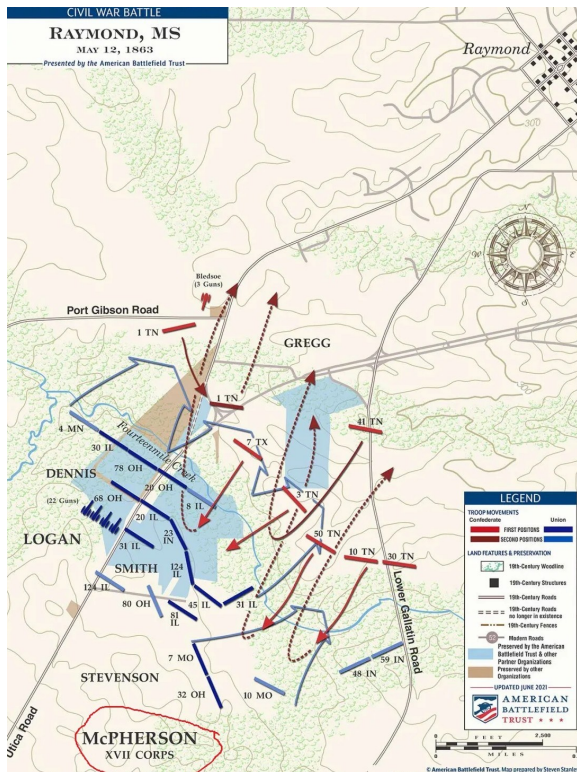
McPherson was eventually made Chief Engineer under General Ulysses S. Grant in February, 1862. Promoted to brigadier general, he served as the military superintendent of railroads in western Tennessee. On October 8, 1862 he was made a major general. He fought in many battles under Grant including Shiloh, the siege of Corinth, the 2<sup>nd</sup> battle of Corinth, and commanded the 17<sup>th</sup> Corps at Vicksburg, remaining there until March, 1864. He was Chief Engineer during the capture of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson. He fought at Port Gibson on May 1, 1863. At the battle of Raymond on May 12, 1863 his men nearly annihilated a small Confederate force who were trying to attack his 10,000 man column. Since Gen. Sherman had been promoted to command all the

(cont on page 22)



## MS. REBELLE

Armies in the West, James then joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division of the Army of Tennessee in Atlanta. He was made a brigadier general in the Regular Army after Vicksburg. He also was with Gen. Sherman when Sherman started the Atlanta Campaign and his March to the Sea. James knew from his engineering studies that North Georgia would be very rough country for the movement of troops. In May, 1864 still in Atlanta, his men tried to outmaneuver the Confederates under Gen. Joseph Johnston at the Battle of Rocky Face Ridge, one of the rough country places. Rather than climb it, the men and wagons moved through the passes and gaps. Even though McPherson had 25,000 men, Johnston with his 4,000 Confederates blocked McPherson's men. Johnston was replaced five days before McPherson's death by his longtime friend John Bell Hood.



(L) Battle of Raymond (Above) McPherson and staff at Vicksburg

On July 22, 1864 in Atlanta, James was killed in the opening minutes of the battle by one of Gen. John Bell Hood's men. He rode on his horse with only his orderly to inspect his troops' position, following a line of the 16<sup>th</sup> Corps to the 17<sup>th</sup> Corp. He only travelled about 150 yards when he encountered a group of Confederate skirmishers. He tipped his hat to Confederate Captain Richard Beard, refused to surrender, and galloped away. Confederate skirmisher Corp. Robert Coleman fired; McPherson was struck by a bullet near his heart and fell off his horse. He lived for 10-20 minutes but was unresponsive. One of his officers dashed away with McPherson's staff, and smashed his watch into a tree at 2:02 p.m., the time of McPherson's death. When the Confederates came up and asked his orderly who the general was, the aide said, "Sir, it is General McPherson. You have killed the best man in our army." His body was taken to Gen. Sherman's headquarters.

(cont on page 23)

## MS. REBELLE

Confederate Captain Richard Beard, who was part of General Hood's troops, reported: "He (McPherson) came upon us suddenly. I threw up my sword as a signal for him to surrender. He checked his horse, raised his hat in salute, wheeled to the right and dashed off to the rear in a gallop. Corporal Coleman, standing near me, was ordered to fire, and it was his shot that brought General McPherson down." A ball hit his back and moved diagonally forward, then exited his body on the left side under his left breast and through his lung. He was only 35. He was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest ranking Union general to be killed during the war; Gen. John Sedgwick was the first. James was widely mourned across the country and remembered for his intelligence, integrity, and devotion of duty. The general's body was sent through the lines under a flag of truce. His horse was sent back to the McPherson farm in Clyde, Ohio.



Death of McPherson



Corp. Robert Coleman, CSA

Many Union generals sent messages to his family and to his fiancée Emily Hoffman. General Grant called him one of the army's "ablest, purest, and best generals." General Sherman wrote "The Army and the Country have sustained a great loss by the death of McPherson. I had expected him to finish the war. Grant and I are likely to be killed or set aside after some failure to meet public expectation and McPherson would have come into chief command at the right time to end the war. He had no enemies."

His friend Gen. John Bell Hood wrote: "I will record the death of my classmate and boyhood friend, General James B. McPherson, the announcement of which caused me sincere sorrow. Neither the years nor the difference of sentiment that had led us to range ourselves on opposite sides in the war had lessened my friendship; indeed the attachment formed in early youth was strengthened by my admiration and gratitude for his conduct toward our people in the vicinity of Vicksburg. His considerate and kind treatment of them stood in bright contrast to the course pursued by many Federal officers."

(cont on page 24)



## MS. REBELLE

When Sherman received word of McPherson's death, he openly wept. He then penned a letter to Emily Hoffman in Baltimore, stating: "My Dear Young Lady, A letter from your Mother to General Barry on my Staff reminds me that I owe you heartfelt sympathy and a sacred duty of recording the fame of one of our Country's brightest and most glorious Characters. I yield to none on Earth but yourself the right to excel me in lamentations for our Dead Hero. Why should death's darts reach the young and brilliant instead of older men who could better have been spared? His public enemies, even the men who directed the fatal shot, never spoke or wrote of him without expressions of marked respect; those whom he commanded loved him even to idolatry; and I, his associate and commander, fail in words adequate to express my opinion of his great worth. I feel assured that every patriot in America, on hearing this sad news, will feel a sense of personal loss, and the country generally will realize that we have lost, not only an able military leader, but a man who, had he survived, was qualified to heal the national strife which has been raised by designing and ambitious men."

James' grandmother on his mother's side was Lydia Norton Russell Chase Slocum. (She had three husbands.) When her grandson died, a letter was sent to her by Gen. U.S. Grant as follows:

"My Dear Madam, I am glad to know that the relatives of the lamented Major General McPherson are aware of the more than friendship existing between him and myself. A Nation grieves at the loss of one so dear to a Nation's cause. It is a selfish grief because the Nation had more to expect from him than from almost anyone living. I join in this selfish grief and add the grief of personal love for the departed. He formed for some time one of my military family; I knew him well – to know him was to love him. It may be some consolation to you, his aged grandmother, to know that every officer and every soldier who served under your grandson felt the highest reverence for his patriotism, his zeal, his almost unequaled ability, his amiability, and all the many virtues that can adorn a commander. Your bereavement is great but cannot exceed mine. Yours truly, U.S. Grant". McPherson's funeral was held on July 29, 1864. Lydia responded to Grant "His funeral services were attended in his mother's orchard, where his youthful feet had often pressed the soil to gather the falling fruit; and his remains are resting in the silent grave scarce half a mile from the place of his birth. His grave is on an eminence but a few rods from where the funeral services were attended, and near the grave of his father." She thanked Grant for his kindness.

Quite a few monuments to Gen. McPherson have been placed in different cities across the country. There is one in Washington, D.C. in McPherson Square between K Street, I Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Street, and Vermont Avenue. It is a two minute walk to the White House. The monument was authorized by Congress in 1876 and mostly paid for by the Army of the Tennessee. The monument was sculpted by Louis Rebisso and cast from a Confederate cannon which was captured at the Battle of Atlanta. It was dedicated on October 18, 1876. A \$2.00 bill featuring his likeness was printed in 1891, but was never circulated. The bill is now worth \$3,000.00 if anyone has one. Fort McPherson in Atlanta was named for him. It was in Fulton County, four miles southwest of Atlanta but

(cont on page 25)

## MS. REBELLE

is now closed. A monument to James was made in McPherson, Kansas. There is also a McPherson Township in Blue Earth Co., Minnesota, with an equestrian statue of him. South Dakota has a county named McPherson Co. in his honor. There is also a McPherson Co. in Nebraska. In the Ravenswood area of Chicago, IL, there is also a James B. McPherson Elementary School. In East Atlanta, GA on McPherson Avenue and Monument Avenue, there is an upright cannon placed at the spot where he was killed. This monument now has a subdivision around it. In his hometown of Clyde, Ohio, a highway, U.S. 20 is named the James B. McPherson Highway and was dedicated on August 9, 1941. There is also a middle school in Clyde named for him.



McPherson Square, Washington DC



The McPherson \$2 bill

Major General James Birdseye McPherson was buried in the McPherson Cemetery in Clyde, Sandusky Co., Ohio. His military escort consisted of his personal staff, Major L.S. Willard, Capt. G.R. Steele, and Capt. D.H. Gile. His two brothers, his sister, mother and uncle were the only ones in attendance. The service took place in his mother's orchard behind his boyhood home. His fiancée Emily Hoffman was so distraught upon receiving the tragic news from Gen. Sherman that she went into isolation and locked



Marker at Death site

herself in her room. She did not attend her fiancée's funeral and never recovered from the tragedy. She refused to come out of her room for a year and finally came out on July 22, 1865 (the one year anniversary of James' death). She lived a quiet and solitary life, and never married before passing away in 1891 at age 57. She is buried in Green Mount Cemetery in Baltimore. The house James grew up in is right across the street on East Maple Street from the McPherson Cemetery. The cemetery was called the Evergreen Cemetery but was changed to the McPherson Cemetery on December 15, 1868. His grave sits on a hill and features an 11-foot bronze

(cont on page 26)



## MS. REBELLE

statue erected in his honor. The monument was placed on his grave honoring him on July 22, 1881 in the cemetery. President Rutherford B. Hayes gave the dedication speech. There were 20,000 people in attendance. Many Civil War officers came to the dedication including Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman. The GPS coordinates are Latitude: 41.309432 and Longitude: 82-970563. He is buried in Section 1, Lot 161, Space 4, Memorial ID: 4243.



McPherson's boyhood home



Statue in McPherson Cemetery



McPherson's grave marker

Several effects of James were found and preserved, including his ceremonial and field sword, his model 1851 belt buckle when he was shot, a wooden canteen he had taken from a Confederate soldier, his heavy military travel chest, and his field binoculars. The Atlanta History Center has possession of his chest, belt buckle, and canteen. His sword and 1851 Navy Colt 36 caliber revolver are in the Clyde Museum.

As a side story, James' fiancée Emily Hoffman was the daughter of a wealthy father, Samuel Hoffman, who was a merchant in Baltimore. He ran a very successful auction firm called Hoffman & Co. and later served as a senator in the Maryland State Senate. They lived in a mansion at 1 West Franklin Street on the corner of North Charles Street. The area was called Millionaire's Row, and was in the prestigious Mount Vernon area where

George Washington's Statue stood in a small circle on Charles Street. When I first found out this information, I wondered if it was the mansion I lived in on the same street when I was going to the Bard Avon Secretarial School located at 805 North Charles Street. This area was Baltimore's "Millionaire's Row." My mansion was a gray

(cont on page 27)

## MS. REBELLE



Travel Chest



1851 Navy Colt 36-cal revolver

cement/stucco mix and was at 14 East Franklin Street. When it was built, it was red brick. It is only a two minute walk to the Hoffman mansion. The Margaret J. Bennett house was built in the 1820s. When Margaret Bennett died, the mansion was turned into a residence to shelter and protect homeless, needy, and deserving females to furnish them with food, raiment (clothing, garments & attire), lodging, to stimulate them in honest efforts to earn a livelihood, and to instruct them in moral and religious truths. The house was enlarged even more and then had four floors. There was a long winding mahogany staircase going up to the top four floors, and lots of rules. My little room with two windows was on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor facing St. Paul Street and a brick wall on the other side. I had to be interviewed by the matron who ran the house. You also had to sign in and out when leaving. There was a curfew. There was one small elevator in the house. Breakfast and dinner were served in a large dining room. No men were allowed in the house except for the 18 foot living room when you came in the door. There was also a one hour time limit for how long your guest could stay. Most likely the Bennett family and the Hoffman family knew each other. The Bennett house is now owned by the Women's Housing Coalition. The Hoffman house was demolished in May, 1905 and made into a seven floor apartment building. That's my story!



The Bennett House (L)



The Hoffman House (R)

**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](mailto:jlgrtree@erols.com).





## PRINCE WILLIAM

Historic Preservation



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# 2026 PRINCE WILLIAM HISTORY LECTURE SERIES

**January 22**

### **Desegregation in Northern Virginia Libraries**

Chris Barbuschak and Suzanne S. LaPierre  
 Old Manassas Courthouse, 9248 Lee Ave, Manassas

**March 26**

### **Shipwreck on the Potomac: Disaster in Pursuit of Lincoln's Killer**

Karen E. Stone  
 Old Manassas Courthouse, 9248 Lee Ave, Manassas

**May 28**

### **'Better Known than Acknowledged': The Lees of Stratford and the Cause of Liberty**

Dr. Gordon Blaine Steffey  
 Williams Ordinary, 17674 Main St, Dumfries

**July 23**

### **Opening Manassas: The Iron Brigade, Stonewall Jackson, and the Battle on Brawner's Farm, August 28, 1862**

Bill Backus  
 Pat White Center at Ben Lomond  
 10501 Copeland Dr, Manassas

**September 24**

### **Cold War Virginia**

Francis Gary Powers Jr. and Christopher Sturdevant  
 Old Manassas Courthouse, 9248 Lee Ave, Manassas

**November 19**

### **True Crime Prince William County in the 1950s**

Zachary G. Ford  
 Occoquan Town Hall, 314 Mill St, Occoquan  
 703-792-1731

Each program is free and will begin at 7 pm



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

<http://www.bullruncwrt.org>

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**\$55.00**

**\$65.00**

**You may use PayPal by going to [http://brcwrt.org/?page\\_id=962](http://brcwrt.org/?page_id=962) and then emailing this form to [BRCWRTtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto: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?** \_\_\_\_\_