



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXXIII, Issue 7, JULY 2026

HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR SCOTT MINGUS SPEAKS ON "HUMAN INTEREST STORIES OF THE GETTYSBURG CAMPAIGN" AT THE JULY 9th, 2026 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

By Mark Trbovich

This presentation of a Civil War book provides another series of fascinating behind-the-scenes stories to enrich the readers' understanding of this historic event - beyond the tactics familiar to many students of the battle. The descriptive incidents in this work detail the terror and suffering encountered by civilians and soldiers alike, as well as provide tales of lighter moments. These anecdotes humanize the participants and infuse a greater appreciation of their struggles. This carefully selected collection is presented in chronological order and immerses the reader into the unfolding drama of events. Here are some examples: South of Gettysburg, over 90,000 Federal soldiers marched towards an encounter with Robert E. Lee's oft-victorious Confederate army. However, the Yankees' morale was high, and northern Maryland residents eagerly supported the Union cause. For the rest of the story, please attend this outstanding presentation, by an old friend who has visited us many times in the past.

Scott Mingus is a retired research scientist and current consultant to the global pulp and paper industry. He holds U. S. patents in self-adhesive postage stamps and bar code labels. The Ohio native graduated from the Paper Science & Engineer-

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, July 9, 2026

6 P.M. Social Hour

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

GUEST SPEAKER:

Scott Mingus

TOPIC:

**"Human Interest Stories of
the Gettysburg Campaign"**

ing program at Miami University in 1978. While working for Avery Dennison, he was part of the research team that developed the first commercially successful self-adhesive U.S. postage stamps. Scott has written 22 books on the Civil War and the Underground Railroad. His biography of Gen. William "Extra Billy" Smith won multiple awards, including the Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. Literary Prize for Confederate History. He has also written articles for *Gettysburg Magazine* and other journals.

Scott has appeared on C-SPAN, C-SPAN3, PCN, and other TV networks. For more than a decade, he has written a popular blog on the Civil War history of York County. He received the 2013 Heritage Profile Award from the York County History Center for his contributions to local Civil War history.

(cont on page 4)

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE Executive Committee

President: Melissa A. Winn,
melissaannwinn@gmail.com

Vice-President: Mark Whitenton,
mark.whitenton@gmail.com, 703-795-8759

Treasurer: Joe Young,
BRCWRTTreasurer@gmail.com

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At Large: Jeff Joyce, Mark Trbovich, Jim Lewis,
Drew Pallo

Past President: Kim Brace, kbrace@aol.com
202-607-5857

Education: (vacant)

Field Trips: Sam Laudenslager,
kapel-meister1@hotmail.com

Fundraising: (vacant)

Graphic Design: Drew Pallo,
dpallo3@verizon.net

Marketing: (vacant)

Membership: Mark Whitenton,
mark.whitenton@gmail.com

Newsletter: Don Richardson,
don.richardson@erols.com

Preservation: Melissa A. Winn,
melissaannwinn@gmail.com

Scholarship: John Carter, johnca2@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Alan Day,
webmaster@bullruncwrt.org

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>

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

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

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

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"

In This Issue

President's Column	Page 3
Welcome New Members	Page 4
BRCWRT Calendar of Events	Page 5
Kunstler Print For Sale	Page 6
Patrick Falci on "Gettysburg"	Page 8
2026 BRCWRT Picnic	Page 10
Preservation Corner	Page 11
Scholarship Winner's Essay	Page 14
The Old Bennett School	Page 18
Prince William Lecture Series	Page 19



THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Melissa A. Winn

Photos: Janet Greentree

As we celebrate Independence Day this month, our nation marks a remarkable milestone — the **250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence**. This anniversary invites us not only to celebrate the birth of the United States, but also to reflect on the generations of Americans who have worked to preserve the ideals expressed in 1776. For those of us who study the Civil War, the connection is especially meaningful. The soldiers, civilians, surgeons, nurses, and countless others whose stories we explore understood that the promises of the Declaration were worth defending, even at tremendous sacrifice.

The America 250 commemoration will continue over the coming year with events across the country, offering new opportunities to engage with our shared history. I encourage you to visit historic sites, attend lectures, support local museums, and take advantage of the many programs that will accompany this once-in-a-generation anniversary. It is an exciting time to be a student of history.



Our June speaker, Patrick Falci, regaled us with insider stories of the making of the Gettysburg movie.

While you enjoy your summer activities, please take time to thank the BRCWRT officers and volunteers. They're busy preparing another outstanding season of speakers, producing the *Stone Wall*, supporting battlefield preservation initiatives, maintaining our growing library of books and donations, and continuing our scholarship program. These efforts happen because of the generosity and dedication of members who freely give of their time and talents. Thank you to everyone who helps make the Bull Run Civil War Round Table such a vibrant organization.

Summer also offers the perfect opportunity to explore Civil War history firsthand. Whether you're attending the Gettysburg anniversary events, walking the fields at Manassas, Antietam, or another battlefield, or simply spending an afternoon with a great Civil War book, I hope you'll find time to deepen your appreciation for the people and events that continue to shape our understanding of America's past.



(cont on page 4)

SPEAKER INTRODUCTION

Scott has written six scenario books for Civil War miniature war gaming. His great-great-grandfather was a 15-year-old drummer boy and rifleman in the 51st Ohio Infantry in the Western Theater; other family members fought at Antietam and Gettysburg in the 7th West Virginia of the Army of the Potomac. Scott and his wife Debi live in Manchester Township, north of York PA.

Come join us early at our July 9th, 2026 Membership Meeting to have an opportunity to chat with Scott and your colleagues before the meeting begins. Doors open at 6:00 PM; hope to see you there.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As you travel this summer, consider inviting a friend or family member to join us when our meetings resume this fall. One of the greatest strengths of the BRCWRT is the welcoming community we've built, including bringing together experienced historians, collectors, preservationists, and those who are just beginning their journey into Civil War history. Every new member helps ensure that our mission of education and preservation remains strong for future generations.

I wish you and your family a safe, enjoyable, and history-filled summer! Huzzah!

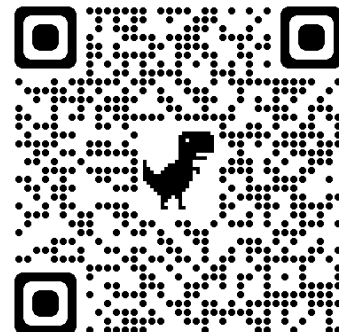


SUPPORT BRCWRT ACTIVITIES

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 2026-2027 Program of Events

Date	Event
July 9, 2026	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Scott Mingus - "Human Interest Stories from the Gettysburg Campaign"
<u>August 13, 2026</u>	<u>Monthly Meeting Speaker: Frank O'Reilly - "Last Days of Stonewall Jackson"</u>
September 10, 2026	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Bill Backus - "Opening Manassas: The Iron Brigade, Stonewall Jackson, and the Battle of Brawner Farm, 28 August 1862"
October 8, 2026	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Bryan Cheeseboro - "The Early Days of the Civil War Defenses of Washington, from Fort Sumter to 1st Bull Run"
October 17, 2026	Fall Tour: "Civil War Alexandria (AM) / Fort Ward (PM)" Tour leaders Don Hakenson and Chuck Mauro (rain date October 24th)
November 19, 2026	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Lisa Samia - "Nameless and Faceless of Manassas And Gettysburg"
December 10, 2026	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Jonathan Jones - "Opium Slavery: Civil War Veterans And America's First Opioid Crisis"
<u>January 14, 2027</u>	<u>Monthly Meeting Speaker: Jared Peatman - "Hell of a Regiment: The 20th Maine"</u>
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	EXTRA Monthly Meeting Speaker: Damian Shiels - "The Irish in the Civil War" (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"	Tours/Field Trips & Special RT Events in "Red" <u>County or outside sponsored events in "Green"</u>

PRINT FOR SALE**Mort Kunstler's "Iron Horses, Men of Steel"****By Mark Whitenton**

At the Membership Meeting on July 9th, we will be offering for sale another Mort Kunstler print entitled "Iron Horses, Men of Steel". It depicts the June 1861 event of Jackson's wagon train passing through Winchester hauling disassembled locomotives bound for the Manassas Gap Railway line at Strasburg.

This print is new and unframed, although not numbered or signed. A similar print is being offered on eBay for \$250. However, we are asking only \$75 for it. The Round Table is grateful to member Blake Myers for his generous donation of this print.

Please remember that sales of donated prints are an important source of income to support our Bull Run Civil War Round Table activities.



Iron Horses, Men of Steel
Winchester, Va., June 1861
by
Mort Kunstler

Mort Kunstler explained the background of his painting: Before I ever completed the painting, 'Jackson Commandeers the Railroad' in 1999, I knew I wanted to do a sequel showing another part of the operation. This great event of moving locomotives and railroad equipment overland and through towns had never been depicted and would be a natural follow-up to the scene showing the disassembling of the locomotives in the Martinsburg railroad yards. The forty-horse team used to pull the stripped-down boiler was rigged four abreast and driven, artillery style, by a rider who controlled his four horses.

(cont on page 7)

KUNSTLER PRINT

Since thoroughbreds, quarter horses, mules, etc. were conscripted for the arduous movement, some owners refused to part with their mounts, unless they drove them personally. The result was a joint military-civilian operation. Artillery riders with their distinctive red markings are in key positions in the lineup as outriders are available for troubleshooting. The rest of the equipment - cowcatchers, lights, cabs, stacks - were transported by wagons and oxcarts.

In my research for the previous painting, I learned about the taking apart of locomotives and how to move them. Winchester was the natural choice for me as the setting for this new painting since it was the largest town between Martinsburg and Strasburg, where the locomotives were reassembled and put back on the tracks. Since Loudoun Street has been featured in my paintings 'Jackson Enters Winchester' and 'After the Snow', I wanted to portray this new scene in a completely different way that would not be reminiscent of the other two. I finally came up with the idea of using a high perspective which enables the viewer to see down the entire street. This presented a whole new set of problems, which, in the beginning, seemed almost insurmountable. Using a different perspective meant that I had to find out additional information on what buildings were in Winchester during the Civil War, what they looked like and who occupied them. Added to this was the magnitude of the event that required me to portray crowds of people that would have turned out to witness the spectacle.

Looking north, on the left side of the street in the distant background, is the columned, three-story Taylor Hotel, the featured building in my first painting of Loudoun Street, 'Jackson Enters Winchester'.

On the extreme right side of the painting is a building that was an auction house run by C. B. Rouss. The building no longer exists and has been replaced with a parking lot. However, the Senseny Building, just to the north, still stands in all its glory. It has been fully restored and is now known as the Feltner Building, the corporate headquarters for the F & M National Bank. The open area with the tree and iron fence around it is the courtyard in front of the Winchester Courthouse that was featured in my other Loudoun Street painting, 'After the Snow'.

Going further back on the right side of the street is Rouss Avenue, known as Railroad Avenue during the war. It is the narrow street on the other side of the fence between the courtyard and the three-story Taylor Confectionery and Bakery. Taylor's was torn down and replaced in 1902 by the F & M Bank, a building which still stands today. Loudoun Street, once known as the Old Valley Pike, is today a main street featuring a beautiful walking mall with many of the buildings seen in this painting still intact. All of the names on the signs and the locations of the various businesses are as accurate as could be ascertained and would not have been possible without the help of Ben Ritter, the most knowledgeable historian of Civil War Winchester.

I hope that this painting captures an event of epic accomplishment and helps instill a spirit of learning from the past and inspire preserving what we have in the present for future generations.

BIG EVENT AT THE ROUND TABLE

General A.P. Hill Portrayed by Patrick Falci Discussing the Movie "Gettysburg"

By Janet Greentree

June 18, 2026 turned out to be a fabulous evening with actor and reenactor Patrick Falci telling us all about the making of the movie *Gettysburg* and the actors appearing in it. He told us many funny stories about things that happened during the filming.

My first encounter with Patrick was when I went to my second reenactment at Antietam in September, 1997 for the 135th anniversary of the battle. There were 15,000 reenactors and 70,000 people in attendance. Needless to say it was very crowded. I found a space, put down my blanket, had my 10 rolls of film for my camera, and just waited for everything to start. The battle started and after awhile Gen. A.P. Hill came up on horseback from "Harpers Ferry" for the battle. All of a sudden a large horse was standing right beside me with Gen. A.P. Hill in a red shirt. I was truly afraid that the horse would step on me since it was so close to me. Of course, my camera was out immediately taking pictures, when Patrick's horse reared up in the air. Patrick and his staff were able to get control of the horse.



A.P. Hill and staff at Antietam, 1997 (Joan Falci)



Patrick's mount gets a bit frisky

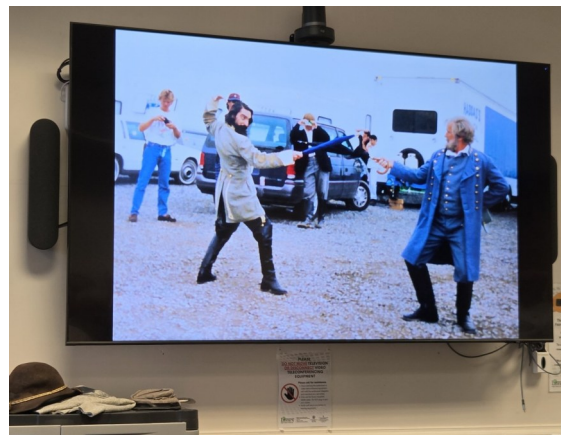
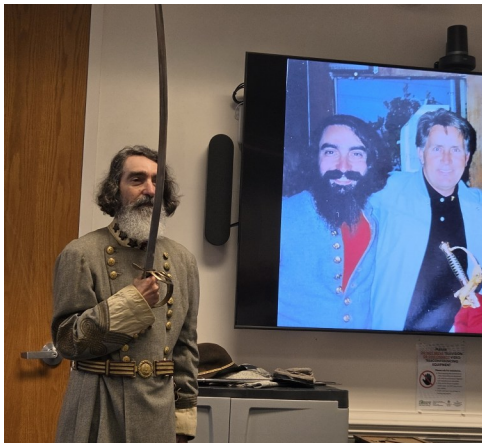
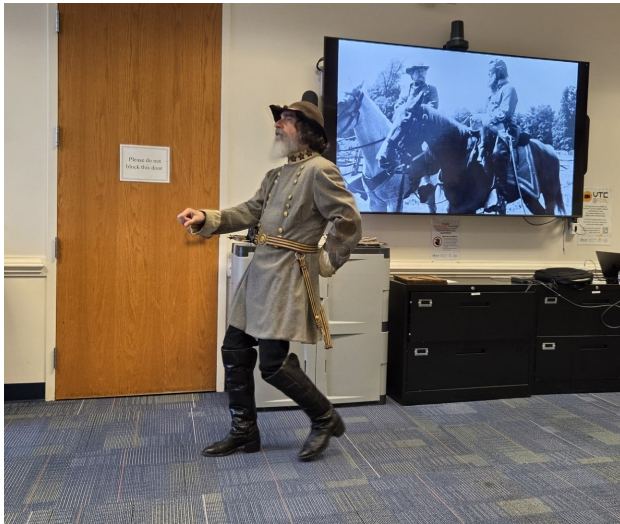
Gwen Wyttenbach in her Civil War dress ran into Patrick in Chancellorsville. She went on her birthday quite a few years ago to put flowers on Stonewall's Monument. Accompanying him was Jeff Shaara. Patrick and Gwen talked for a little bit, as he asked her where she was putting the flowers. Neither one of us are sure how we became good friends with Patrick.

Patrick told us a story about Tom Berenger, who played Gen. James Longstreet. Patrick said he wasn't that good of a horseman. The director told him to go to a certain point, and every time he tried, he failed to go to the right spot where the other actor was, or he was too far from the actor on his horse. Patrick did a horse ride across the floor of the library showing how Tom went.

(cont on page 9)

PATRICK FALCI DISCUSSES "GETTYSBURG"

He also showed us his sweatshirt that was given to him by Ron Maxwell when Ron told him that he was going to be A.P. Hill in the movie. He had a picture of a "sword fight" with Martin Sheen, who played Gen. Lee. Patrick borrowed Gwen's son's sword for the presentation, as security would frown on someone carrying a sword on the train. In the background, there is a picture of Patrick with the sword and Martin Sheen in regular clothes.



Patrick Falci entertains the BRCWRT membership (Janet Greentree)

It was a great presentation and I told him he was the best speaker we ever had except for Ed Bearss. He was good with that.

Gwen and I gave him a tour of Civil War spots in Fairfax the next day before he got on his train back to New York. We showed him the Gunnell house where Col. John Mosby captured Gen. Stoughton, Fairfax Court House, Blenheim, and St. Mary's Church where Clara Barton was a nurse tending to the wounded. Gen. Kearny's body was brought to the church after he was killed at Ox Hill for transport to Washington. His funeral was in NYC and his second funeral was at Arlington National Cemetery, where he is buried.

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



**Silent Auction
With Civil War Prints
& Books for Sale!**





PRESERVATION CORNER

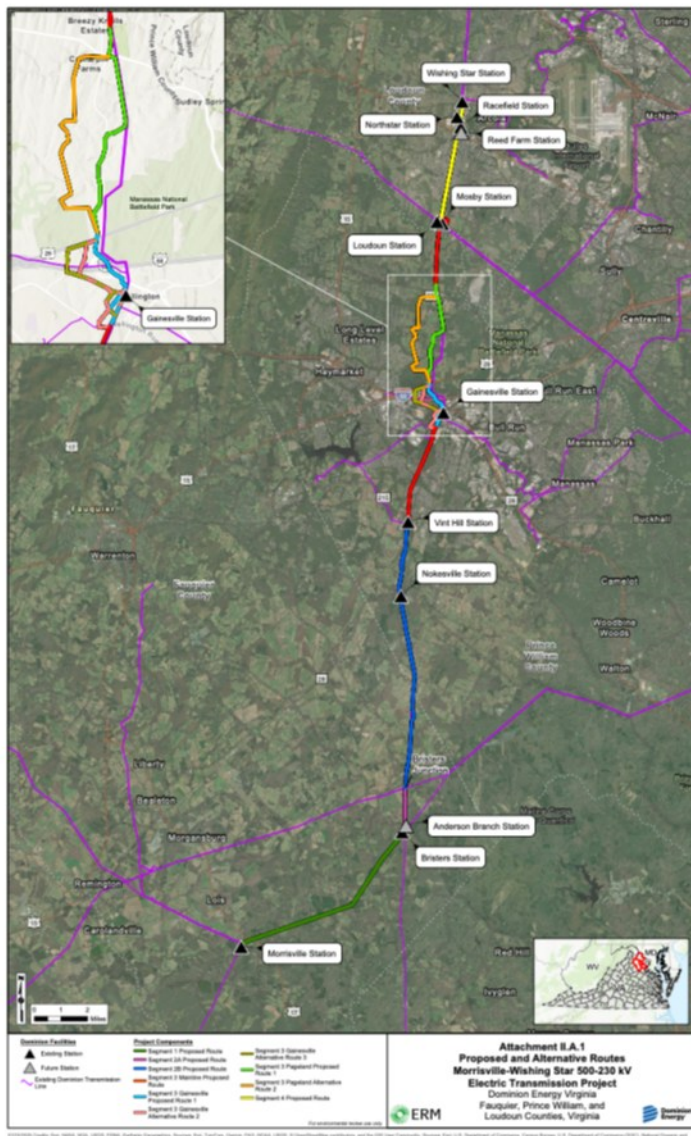
By Blake Myers

Photos by Blake Myers
unless otherwise noted



Greetings BRCWRT Members and Friends. Many of you may be aware of the Morrisville-Wishing Star transmission line project. Dominion Energy has applied to the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) under Case No. PUR-2026-00021 to run the Morrisville-Wishing Star line through the Gainesville area in order to support data centers in Loudoun County.

<https://cdn-dominionenergy-prd-001.azureedge.net/-/media/content/about/power-line-projects/morrisville-wishingstar/pdfs/attachment-ii-a1-aerial-proposed-and-alternative-routes.pdf?rev=532b373d431f4902a1121e4a826d4812&hash=A29187219D5187231E7C97889ED79772>

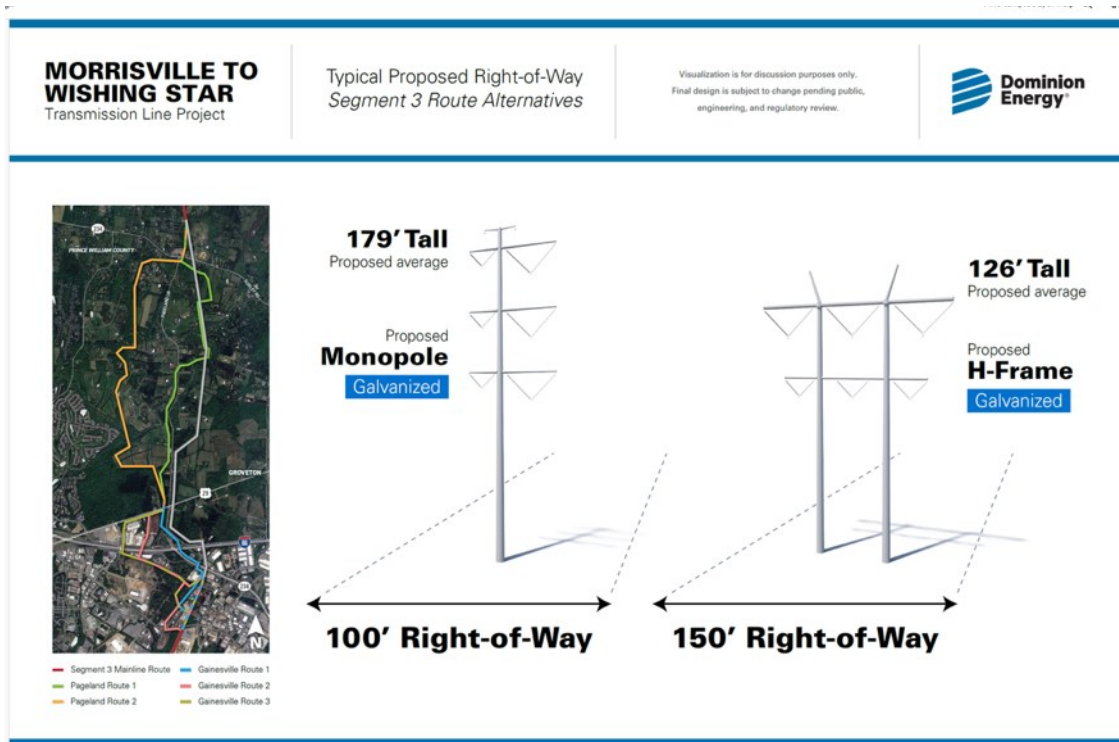


Dominion is recommending a route to the SCC that's close to, and parallels, Pageland Lane and the Manassas Battlefield (the green line in the diagram to the left). The purple line is the existing transmission line through the Brawner Farm area. Detailed maps and examples of transmission infrastructure provided with the plan indicate that 126-foot-tall power line poles may be planned for the 150-ft Right of Way (ROW) along Pageland Lane.

Placing transmission infrastructure above ground along Pageland Lane would result in a decisively negative impact on the historic viewshed to and from Pageland Lane, the Brawner Farm and Manassas National Battlefield. To avoid and mitigate this, any transmission lines installed along Pageland Lane in the vicinity of Manassas National Battlefield, including south of US Route 29, should be installed underground.

(cont on page 12)

PRESERVATION CORNER



Reader and organization comments on this project may be submitted to the SCC via the SCC website at the link, below. The comment submission deadline is *September 25, 2026*.

<https://www.scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments/cases/pur-2026-00021.html>.

JULY 4th: The Prince William Digital Gateway (PWDG) Exists No More

On July 2nd, Prince William Digital Gateway Project developer QTS dropped its appeal to the Virginia Supreme Court in support of the proposed data center development along Pageland Lane and adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield Park.

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

The lawsuits filed by the American Battlefield Trust (ABT) and the Coalition to Protect Prince William County, and by the Oak Valley Homeowners Association (HOA), assert that the process used by the PW BOCS to inform PWC residents of the scheduled public hearing and the substance of the rezoning applications was not compliant with the applicable Virginia law and PWC zoning ordinance.

(cont on page 13)

PRESERVATION CORNER



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

The ABT lawsuit was dismissed at a demurrer hearing, and ABT appealed that ruling. The Oak Valley HOA lawsuit hearing denied a request to dismiss the case, ruling that the plaintiffs had “standing” to proceed, and ruled that the advertised notices provided by the County did not comply with the applicable Virginia Code or PWC Zoning Ordinance, and that the Board of Supervisors approval of the Rezoning Applications was void. The Board of Supervisors and its co-defendants Compass and QTS appealed that ruling.

On February 24, 2026, a Virginia Court of Appeals three-judge panel heard the appeals, and on March 31, 2026, unanimously ruled in favor of the Oak Valley HOA and the ABT. However, the impact of the Court of Appeals ruling and the PWDG’s fate was not clear, as the Oak Valley ruling voided the Prince William County Board of Supervisors rezoning decision, while the ABT ruling dismissed the case. On April 14, the Prince William County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution to withdraw from the Digital Gateway lawsuit, thereby not pursuing an appeal to the Virginia Supreme Court. On April 29, Compass Datacenters indicated it would not appeal the Virginia Court of Appeals’ March 2026 ruling, while QTS announced it would appeal the ruling to the Virginia Supreme Court. QTS’s decision to drop its appeal to the Virginia Supreme Court effectively ends the final lawsuit in the PWDG saga and ends the proposed PWDG data center development project.

Again, a huge thanks to those who have joined in actions to protect Manassas Battlefield, Conway Robinson State Forest, and the historic land along Pageland Lane from encroachment by the proposed PWDG and its data centers. And 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

FAIRFAX STATION: A LIFELINE AND STRATEGIC CROSSROADS IN THE CIVIL WAR

By Kaiely Morales

The Fairfax train station played a crucial role in the Civil War as a center for medical care, while also serving as a strategic railroad hub that supported both Union and Confederate military operations and deeply affected the surrounding civilian population through its transformation from a center of economic growth to a site of war and transportation. In 1861, the United States faced one of the deadliest wars in the country's history: The Civil War. After division between northern and southern states over slavery as well as states attempting to expand westward, especially with the rising popularity of trains, tension eventually sparked into something greater. Trains were first introduced to the U.S. in the late 1820s and they revolutionized transportation and travel of not only goods but also people. Trains and railroad systems were so innovative because they allowed the U.S. to grow and thrive like never before and they helped "encourage settlement" and also to "promote trade and fuel industry." *1

Both northerners and southerners in Congress supported railroad routes that favored their own regions, and as tensions escalated into the Civil War, these competing priorities split along Union and Confederate lines. *2 This division made railroads even more significant, as each side recognized their value for transportation, communication, and military strategy.

Completed in 1852 along the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, Fairfax Station quickly became important to the growing local economy. These railroads were essential in connecting Northern Virginia to larger markets. However, with the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, the purpose of the railroad shifted from economic growth to military necessity and the Fairfax railroad station played an important role in the Civil War since it was used as a base for Union soldiers even though its location was within the Confederate state of Virginia. Rail lines like the one running through Fairfax Station became vital supply routes, allowing armies to move troops, weapons, and information quickly. *3 Control over these railroads often determined strategic advantage, making stations like Fairfax targets of constant military attention.

Fairfax Station's role became especially significant for wounded soldiers in 1862 after the Second Battle of Manassas. There were a multitude of wounded Union soldiers that required immediate evacuation and medical attention. The station became an evacuation site for the wounded soldiers. Clara Barton was one of the volunteers who worked hard to provide medical attention within the Fairfax Train Station. Clara Barton, who later founded the American Red Cross, recalled her experiences and said,

1. Union Pacific Railroad, "Building the Road," Union Pacific, accessed March 29, 2026, <https://www.up.com/about-us/history/overview/building-road>.

2. History.com Editors, "American Civil War," History.com, November 9, 2009, <https://www.history.com/articles/american-civil-war-history>.

3. Union Pacific Railroad, "Building the Road," UP.com, <https://www.up.com/about-us/history/overview/building-road>.

(cont on page 15)

FAIRFAX STATION

"The wounded were brought in so rapidly that every available space was filled." *4 It is evident that civilians were instrumental in dealing with the crisis. The conditions at Fairfax Station are an example of the harsh conditions of the Civil War. Supplies were limited, and the number of wounded soldiers overwhelmed the medics. The wounded soldiers were in critical condition and required immediate medical attention and they relied on medical attention for survival. Despite all of this, Clara Barton additionally stated how she "may be compelled to face danger, but never fear it" demonstrating her heroic nature. She also said that "while [the] soldiers can stand and fight, [she] can stand and feed and nurse them" showing that during the Civil War, the soldiers were not the only ones in the fight; there were also others playing a role within the war. *5 The railroad facilitated faster evacuation than conventional means. This is an example of how infrastructure, which is often taken for granted, contributed to life and death during the Civil War. Clara Barton's accounts also state that "At the railroad dock an important part of this work was carried on" and how special individuals like "Dr. and Mrs. Valentine Mott were stationed day after day as the transports unloaded their men" in order to ensure that everyone was well taken care of. *6

In addition to its medical importance, Fairfax Station was a vital strategic hub for both Union and Confederate forces throughout the Civil War. Its location allowed armies to move troops, weapons, and intelligence quickly, giving whoever controlled the station a critical tactical advantage in Northern Virginia. The station's role is highlighted in contemporary accounts, which describe how "hundreds of wagons were bringing [the wounded] in from the field" to be transferred to trains, showing that Fairfax Station was central to both the logistical movement of soldiers and supplies. *7 Military reports also indicate that both sides attempted to disrupt the opposing army's access to the railroad, demonstrating that control over Fairfax Station could influence the outcome of nearby battles. Union and Confederate forces recognized the station's value and often tried to disrupt the opposing side's access. Military communications show that orders and supplies were routed through the station, emphasizing its role in operational coordination. *8 The station also facilitated communication between field commanders and headquarters, allowing orders and intelligence to travel quickly. The railroad's proximity to front lines also made it essential for operational coordination. The Fairfax Station was a dynamic hub of military strategy regarded very highly by Union forces since it was carefully monitored by Confederate troops, providing strategic importance. The dual use of the station for medical relief and strategic operations illustrates how infrastructure could directly impact the course of the war. When Union

4. Clara Barton, *The Red Cross in War: A Record of Heroism* (Project Gutenberg, 1898), <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/44202/44202-h/44202-h.htm>.

5. *Ibid.*

6. *Ibid.*

7. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, "Local History," accessed March 29, 2026, <https://fairfax-station-railroad-museum.org/local-history/>.

8. The War Department, *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, vol. 12 (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1880–1901), https://archive.org/details/warofrebellion012602rootrich/page/n3/mode/2up?utm_source

FAIRFAX STATION

forces took control in 1862 after the Confederates left, the railroad was used to carry supplies, letters and packages to Union soldiers north of the Occoquan River. This railroad helped with needs for soldiers. After battles like the Second Battle of Manassas and the Battle of Chantilly over 3,000 wounded soldiers were taken to Fairfax Station. From there they were evacuated by train to hospitals in Alexandria and Washington, D.C. The railroad was very important, so Union regiments were stationed to protect it from cavalry raids. Records from the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies and the United States Military Railroad organization show that rail lines were key to moving troops, distributing supplies and communicating throughout the war. *9 The Union army used the railroad to carry supplies and it played a big role in their success.

Before the outbreak of the Civil War, Fairfax Station was an economic engine for the surrounding Northern Virginia region. Its position allowed farmers, merchants, and local businesses to transport goods efficiently to larger markets, stimulating trade and contributing to community growth. Railroads “encouraged settlement” and “promoted trade and fueled industry,” demonstrating that Fairfax Station was central to both local prosperity and regional development. *10 The station also served as a local gathering place, where residents exchanged news, conducted business, and connected with broader economic networks. Even during and after the war, the station continued to influence the local economy. Military and volunteer activity brought employment and commercial activity to the area, as supplies, food, and equipment flowed through the depot. After the war, Fairfax Station remained a hub for passenger travel and freight transport, providing connections to Washington and other major cities and sustaining the community for decades. The station “remained the center of local community life for almost a century until modern highways and rail transportation made local train depots a thing of the past.” *11 Fairfax Station’s economic significance, both before and after the war, highlights how transportation infrastructure can shape the prosperity and development of local communities over time. *12

Fairfax Station was essential during the Civil War as a medical lifeline, a strategic military hub, and an economic center. Its railroads enabled the rapid evacuation of wounded soldiers, movement of troops and supplies, and supported the local economy both before and after the war. Volunteers like Clara Barton ensured that soldiers received care under overwhelming conditions, while Union and Confederate forces recognized the station’s strategic importance. Fairfax Station’s history shows how transportation, community, and courage shaped both the course of the war and the development of Northern Virginia, leaving a legacy that continues to be remembered today.

9. Ibid

10. FXVA Blog, “Herstory: Clara Barton.”

11. Ibid

12. Clara Barton Museum, “Clara Barton at Fairfax Station,” accessed March 29, 2026, <https://clarabartonmuseum.org/clara-barton-at-fairfax-station/>.

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<https://archive.org/details/warofrebellion012602rootrich/page/n3/mode>



Scholarship Committee Chair John Carter presented a plaque and gift to our 2026 winner, Kaiely Morales



Kaiely with her mother Kattia Morales and her cousin Edward

THE OLD BENNETT SCHOOL IN MANASSAS

By Tim Duskin

In 1908, the Virginia General Assembly authorized the building of ten agricultural high schools, one in each Congressional district. The one for the 8th District was built in Manassas from 1908 to 1909 and was the first one to be built. It was named the Bennett School for Dr. Maitland C. Bennett, who donated the land on which it was built. During the construction of the school, the graves of two Civil War soldiers were found. Union veteran George C. Round, who was a Manassas school district trustee, and Confederate veteran George Tyler, who was a school superintendent, decided to build the school over the graves as a memorial to those who died in the Civil War. The school operated in the building until 1969, when a new Bennett Elementary School was erected. The old historic Bennett School building was then used by the Prince William County Police until 1989, but it has been standing vacant since then.

In April of this year, the Prince William County Board of Supervisors agreed to raze the historic Bennett School building in order to expand the County's judicial center. Work on the new courthouse complex is set to begin in 2028 and be completed in 2031. The proposal to raze the building leaves in question what would happen to the soldiers' graves on which it was built, and, indeed, if it is appropriate to raze a memorial to the soldiers of the Civil War. Preservation Virginia has placed the building at the top of its Virginia's Most Endangered Historic Places List 2026. Manassas Vice Mayor Mark Wolfe said that the Manassas city council and residents are frustrated the supervisors moved forward with these plans without consulting the city council. Councilwoman Theresa Coates Ellis has charged that the building was left to deteriorate. Residents are mounting an effort to save the school building. Manassas city resident Colin Turner is leading the effort. He can be contacted at clntrnr@gmail.com.





PRINCE WILLIAM

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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



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