



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XXXIII, Issue 9, SEPTEMBER 2026

**HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR
WILLIAM BACKUS SPEAKS ON
"OPENING MANASSAS: THE
IRON BRIGADE, STONEWALL
JACKSON, AND THE BATTLE OF
BRAWNER FARM" AT THE SEP-
TEMBER 10th, 2026 MEMBER-
SHIP MEETING**

By Mark Trbovich

The Battle of Brawner's Farm, fought on August 28, 1862, was a critical precursor to the Second Battle of Bull Run. In this twilight clash, two legendary units faced off: the Confederate "Stonewall Brigade" and the formidable Union "Iron Brigade" - later known for their distinctive black hats. The Brawner's Farmstead landscape, located in the northwest corner of Manassas National Battlefield Park in Virginia, witnessed their intense struggle. Our namesake Round Table has the pleasure to hear from the co-author of a new book on the battle, and he is also a member. You won't want to miss this presentation on this legendary struggle which is an important part of our local Civil War history.

A native of Connecticut, Bill Backus graduated from the University of Mary Washington with a degree in Historic Preservation. Prior to his service with Prince William County, he worked with the National Park Service at Vicksburg National Military Park and Petersburg National Battlefield. Bill currently serves as the Curator for the Prince William County Office of Historic Preservation in Virginia.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**THURSDAY, September 10,
2026**

6 P.M. Social Hour

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

GUEST SPEAKER:

William Backus

TOPIC:

**"Opening Manassas: The Iron
Brigade, Stonewall Jackson, &
the Battle of Brawner Farm "**

In 2015, Bill and Robert Orrison co-authored *A Want of Vigilance: the Bristoe Station Campaign*. The book traces the campaign from the armies' camps around Orange and Culpeper, northwest through the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and along the vital railroad route (to Centreville and back).

His new book, also co-authored in 2024, is *Opening Manassas: the Iron Brigade, Stonewall Jackson and the Battle of Brawner's Farm, August 28th*.

Come join us early at our September 10th, 2026 Membership Meeting to have an opportunity to chat with Bill and your colleagues before the meeting begins. Doors open at 6:00 PM; hope to see you there.

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

Secretary: Debbie Whitenton, debd509@aol.com

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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>

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

For the **October 2026 issue**, e-mail articles by **September 28th** to the editor, Don Richardson, at: don.richardson@erols.com

ADVERTISEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

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

<http://bullruncwrt.org>

and e-mail ads by **September 28th** to Don Richardson at: don.richardson@erols.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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 W. Rains & Jefferson Davis Changed the Course of the Civil War"

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Melissa A. Winn

More than 160 years ago, a young Union soldier went into battle at Manassas. He never came home.

We may never know his name. But now, after more than a century and a half, his story is being told again — and he will finally receive the burial and honors owed to a soldier who served his country.

The National Park Service recently announced plans to transfer the remains of a Union soldier discovered at Manassas National Battlefield Park to the Office of Army Cemeteries for eventual interment at Arlington National Cemetery. His nearly complete remains were uncovered during archaeological excavations in March 2024 at the site of a Civil War field hospital associated with the Second Battle of Manassas.

He was just 16 to 19 years old.

Archaeologists also recovered a rubber pocket comb buried with him and four surgically amputated limbs from soldiers treated at the hospital during the battle.

It is an extraordinary — and sobering — discovery.

For those of us in the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, Manassas is our backyard. We drive past these fields. We walk their trails. We study the movements of regiments across them and stand where famous moments unfolded. After years of familiarity, it can become easy to see a battlefield simply as a historic landscape.

Then something like this happens.

Suddenly, the distance between 1862 and 2026 disappears.

A teenager went to war. He was caught up in the terrible fighting of the Second Battle of Manassas. Somehow, amid the chaos surrounding a field hospital filled with wounded men and surgeons performing amputations, he died and was buried there. Generations came and went while he remained beneath that ground.

His discovery reminds us that these fields are not simply places where history happened. They are hallowed ground.

That is why the work we do matters. Every battlefield we help preserve, every tour we organize, every speaker we invite, every article we publish, and every story we share helps keep alive the memory of the thousands of individuals who experienced the Civil War here in Northern Virginia.

Soon, this young soldier will leave the battlefield where he rested for more than 160 years and make one final journey to Arlington National Cemetery.

It is a fitting reminder of our responsibilities as historians, preservationists, and members of this community.

On that note, special thanks to *Emerging Civil War* for honoring us with the Round Table Role Model award at their annual symposium in August, recognizing our “excellent programming initiatives and outstanding support of Civil War scholarship for the community.” A job well done, everybody! Thank you all for your service and commitment!

Huzzah!

Melissa with our
ECW certificate
(Janet Greentree)



NOTICE OF ANNUAL OFFICER ELECTIONS

Under the BRCWRT Bylaws, our President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are elected for one-year terms beginning January 1 and ending December 31. Nominations for these positions will open at the October General Membership meeting. Nominations will close and the names of members running for office will be announced at the November General Membership meeting. The officer elections will be held at the December General Membership meeting.

Any BRCWRT member in good standing is eligible to run for one of these offices or nominate another member in good standing (with his or her consent).

If you would like more information or are interested in either throwing your hat in the ring or nominating another member, feel free to contact me:

jeffreyjoyce@sprintmail.com
(703) 862-6417 (mobile)

Jeff Joyce
Nominating Committee Chair



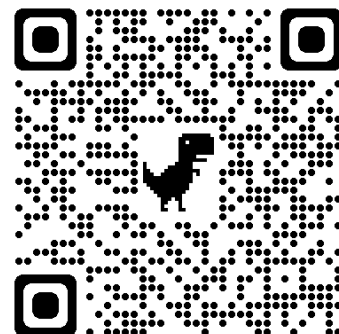
Our August speaker, Frank O'Reilly, gave us a mesmerizing talk on The Last Days of Stonewall Jackson
(Janet Greentree)

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
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	10th Annual BRCWRT Picnic at The Winery At Bull Run
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
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 22, 2027	EXTRA Monthly Meeting Speaker: Damian Shiels - "The Irish in the Civil War" (Extra meeting via Zoom from Ireland)
June 24, 2027	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Erica Uszak - "Controversies on the Early Gettysburg Battlefield"
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"
September 9, 2027	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Jennifer Murray - "General George Gordon Meade and The Civil War"
Monthly Meetings in "Black" Tours/Field Trips & Special RT Events in "Red" <u>County or outside sponsored events in "Green"</u>	

Bull Run Civil War Roundtable

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!



PRINTS FOR AUCTION AT PICNIC

By Mark and Debbie Whitenton

BRCWRT members will have a great opportunity at our Annual Picnic on September 20th. Thanks to the generosity of members Gwen Wyttenbach and Debbie Whitenton and the family of the late Bud Porter, we will offer seven Civil War prints at auction, to support the Round Table's various educational and scholarship activities. (We will also have a large quantity of Civil War books available at bargain prices!)

The first two exquisitely framed prints are from John Paul Strain's *Moon Series* of four prints. These matching frames were produced by the incomparable Gettysburg Historical Prints. These prints are no longer available except as resales. Comparably framed Strain prints are \$385 - \$475 on eBay. Sold together or separately.

Christmas Moon shows General Jackson and his wife at Winchester in Dec. 1861. This print is #796 of 950 signed limited-edition prints. With frame, the overall size is 30"x 31 1/4". Starting bid is \$225.

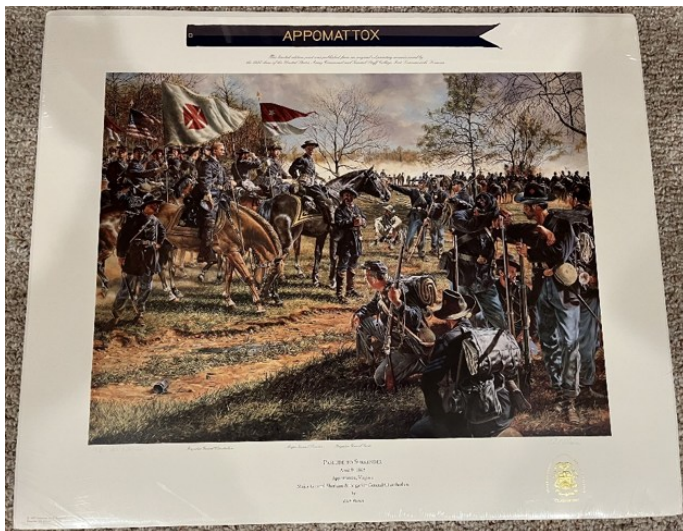


Gettysburg Moon depicts the 26th N.C. at Marsh Creek. This signed print is #675 of 950. The overall size is 34 3/4" x 29 1/4". Starting bid is \$225.

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PRINTS FOR AUCTION

Mort Kunstler's *The Fighting 69th - General Meagher and the Irish Brigade at Fredericksburg, Va., December 2, 1862*. This print is nicely framed, signed #205 in the series. The overall size is 41½" x 28". Starting bid is \$175.



Rick Reeves' *Prelude to Surrender – April 9, 1865 – Appomattox, Virginia*, highlighting Union Generals Sheridan and Chamberlain. This print is unframed, signed #15 of 165. It is available on eBay for \$99. Starting bid is \$65.

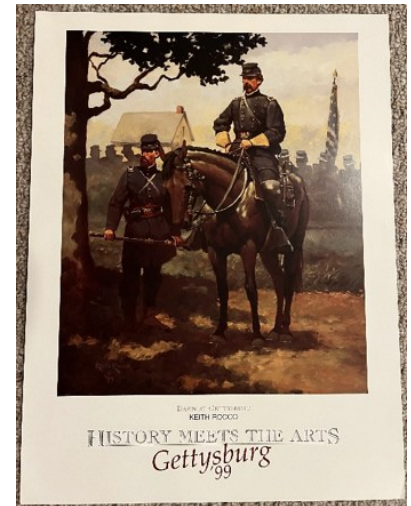
Mort Kunstler's *Rebel Sons of Erin – Fort Donaldson Campaign, February 13, 1862*. Nice frame and matting of a calendar print. Overall size is 20" x 17 ½". Starting bid is \$45.



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PRINTS FOR AUCTION

Keith Rocco's *Dawn at Gettysburg* poster, announcing *History Meets the Arts*. Unframed, 24" x 18". Starting bid is \$15.



Keith Rocco's *Reynolds and Buford at Gettysburg* is in moderate condition. Asking price on Rare Art Finder is between \$78 and \$162 plus framing. Outside measurement 18 1/2" by 22 1/2". Very nice frame, but no glass or matting. Starting bid is \$25. Donated by Bud Porter's family.

LOOKING FOR A GOOD READ?

Our collection of Civil War books has grown by leaps and bounds recently (we're closing in on 1,000 titles!), and we will have a larger selection of them at the Picnic than we usually have room for at our Membership Meetings. Many of these books are in nearly mint condition and the suggested donation is very modest. ALSO: we will preview our new catalog, which we have been developing over the last several months, and which we hope to post on the website soon to allow members to "shop at home". If you are looking for a book by a specific author, you'll be able to view the collection sorted by the author's or editor's last name. If you are interested in a specific topic, such as biographies of generals or studies of battles and campaigns, we'll have a catalog sorted by categories: Biographies, Battles & Campaigns, Memoirs & Letters, Fiction, Units (regimental, brigade, or army histories), Maps & Images, and several other groups. Please come visit the Books tables at the Picnic and see what is on offer!

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 (2nd 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, 703-338-3358

"Please Let This Not Become Another Bull Run" **General George W. Taylor at Bull Run Bridge**

By Evan Phifer

On the night of August 26, 1862, troops under Major General T.J. "Stonewall" Jackson captured Manassas Junction. Union officials in Washington, however, believed the force to likely consist of only cavalry or guerrillas. To investigate what was happening around Manassas, and to support cleanup operations, General George W. Taylor's First New Jersey Brigade, consisting of the First, Second, Third, and Fourth New Jersey Infantry Regiments, was sent out by rail from Alexandria during the early morning hours of August 27. Before the arrival of the brigade, the Second New York Heavy Artillery had advanced and been repulsed northeast of Manassas Junction. Retreating to Fairfax Court House, Confederate cavalry pursued them, although the regiment's colonel, Gustav Waagner, reported his men retreating in "tolerably good order."¹

About a quarter mile east of the Bull Run bridge, the brigade had to advance on foot because a collided train blocked the railroad. Crossing the bridge on foot, the advancing troops encountered the Confederate line east of the Junction. Keeping the Fourth New Jersey at the bridge, Taylor deployed the First and Second Regiments with the Third behind in the center. Facing Taylor were several brigades from A.P. Hill's division. This was no mere cavalry or guerrilla attack, but the vanguard of General Stonewall Jackson's wing of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Confederate batteries poured fire into the Jerseymen as well. Confederate artillery colonel R.L. Walker described the artillery fire as "some very pretty practice."² Jackson waved a white handkerchief imploring the Federals to surrender, but to no avail, as a lone enemy bullet whizzed by Jackson's head.³ Nevertheless, Jackson later recalled the Union advance "made with great spirit and determination and under a leader worthy of a better cause."⁴

Taylor and his men, however, soon realized the predicament they were in. Fearing increasing Confederate numbers and a threat to their line of retreat, the Federals, before they could exchange fire with the Confederate infantry, retreated to the bridge.

Brigadier General William D. Pender's brigade advanced past the Confederate redoubts. Pender's skirmishers met the Federals at the river and soon the whole brigade arrived and advanced, throwing two regiments across with the intention of

(cont on page 12)

1 Report of Col. Gustav Waagner 2nd New York Heavy Artillery, Reserve Corps, Army of Virginia, of action at Bull Run Bridge. OR U.S. War Department, *The War of the Rebellion...* (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1880-1901), Ser. 1, vol. 12, pt. 2, 401-402.

2 Report of Lieut. Col. R. L. Walker, C.S. Army, commanding Artillery Battalion, of operations August 24-September 2. OR U.S. War Department, *The War of the Rebellion...* (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1880-1901), Ser. 1, vol. 12, pt. 2, 673-674.

3 William Thomas Poage, *Gunner with Stonewall* (University of Nebraska Press, 1998), 35. Edward A. Moore, *The Story of a Cannoneer Under Stonewall Jackson* (J.P. Bell Company, 1910), 107.

4 Report of Lieut. Gen. Thomas J. Jackson, C.S. Army, commanding the Second Corps, of operations August 15-September 3. OR U.S. War Department, *The War of the Rebellion...* (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1880-1901), Ser. 1, vol. 12, pt. 2, 643-644.

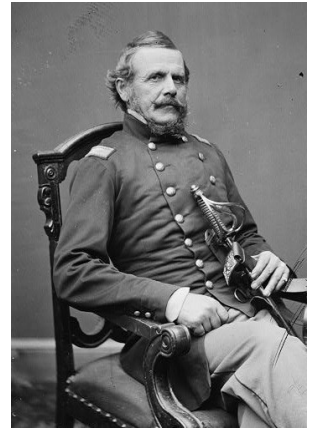
BULL RUN BRIDGE

advancing further. General Field insisted they withdraw and pass lower down where they could cut off the Union line of retreat. Fortunately for the members of the New Jersey brigade, they were able to retreat before this move could be completed.⁵

Brigadier General James J. Archer's brigade advanced as well, with artillery supporting as far as the "nature of the ground" would allow. Jackson then ordered Archer to advance the 19th Georgia Infantry in direct pursuit while the other regiments in the brigade advanced down the railroad track, becoming engaged with Federals on the opposite side of Bull Run near the bridge. A soldier in the Fifth Alabama Battalion of Archer's Brigade recalled "That line of Yanks melted away like wax in a blaze of fire, and it became a fox and dog chase for quite a distance."⁶

After half an hour of fire, Archer's men crossed the run and advanced about half a mile. Being recalled, they took up position on a hill overlooking the bridge until being recalled back to Manassas Junction that night.⁷

Two Ohio regiments, the 11th and 12th, which had arrived via train after the New Jersey troops had departed, helped support the brigade's retreat. While trying to rally his troops, Taylor received a debilitating wound in the leg. Unable to continue in command, he relinquished command to Colonel E. Parker Scammon and called out to "let this not become another Bull Run." The Federals fled to Fairfax Station, and then Alexandria, after suffering more than 300 casualties, many of them being captured, compared to roughly 25 Confederate killed and wounded. Two other Taylors, his nephew, a lieutenant in the 3rd New Jersey, and his son, serving on his staff, were also wounded in the battle.⁸



Col. George W. Taylor
(Library of Congress)



Bull Run, scene of Gen. Taylor's death,
May 1863 (Library of Congress)

General Taylor passed away in Alexandria four days later. In the brigade's 1910 history, Taylor was described: "As a soldier, General Taylor's prominent characteristics were courage, intelligence and inflexible devotion to duty. In personal manner he was reserved, seldom unbending even when among his intimates, but under all the hard crust throbbed a nature at once noble — a nature which scorned injustice, and held unyieldingly to convictions honestly and deliberately formed."⁹

(cont on page 13)

5 Report of Brig. Gen. William D. Pender, C.S. Army, commanding brigade, of operations August 27-September 2. OR U.S. War Department, *The War of the Rebellion...* (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1880-1901), Ser. 1, vol. 12, pt. 2, 697-699.

6 Editors of Time Life Books, *Voices of the Civil War – Second Manassas* (Time Life Books, 1995), 85-86.

7 Report of Brig. Gen. James J. Archer, C.S. Army, commanding brigade, of operations August 24-September 2. OR U.S. War Department, *The War of the Rebellion...* (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1880-1901), Ser. 1, vol. 12, pt. 2, 699-702.

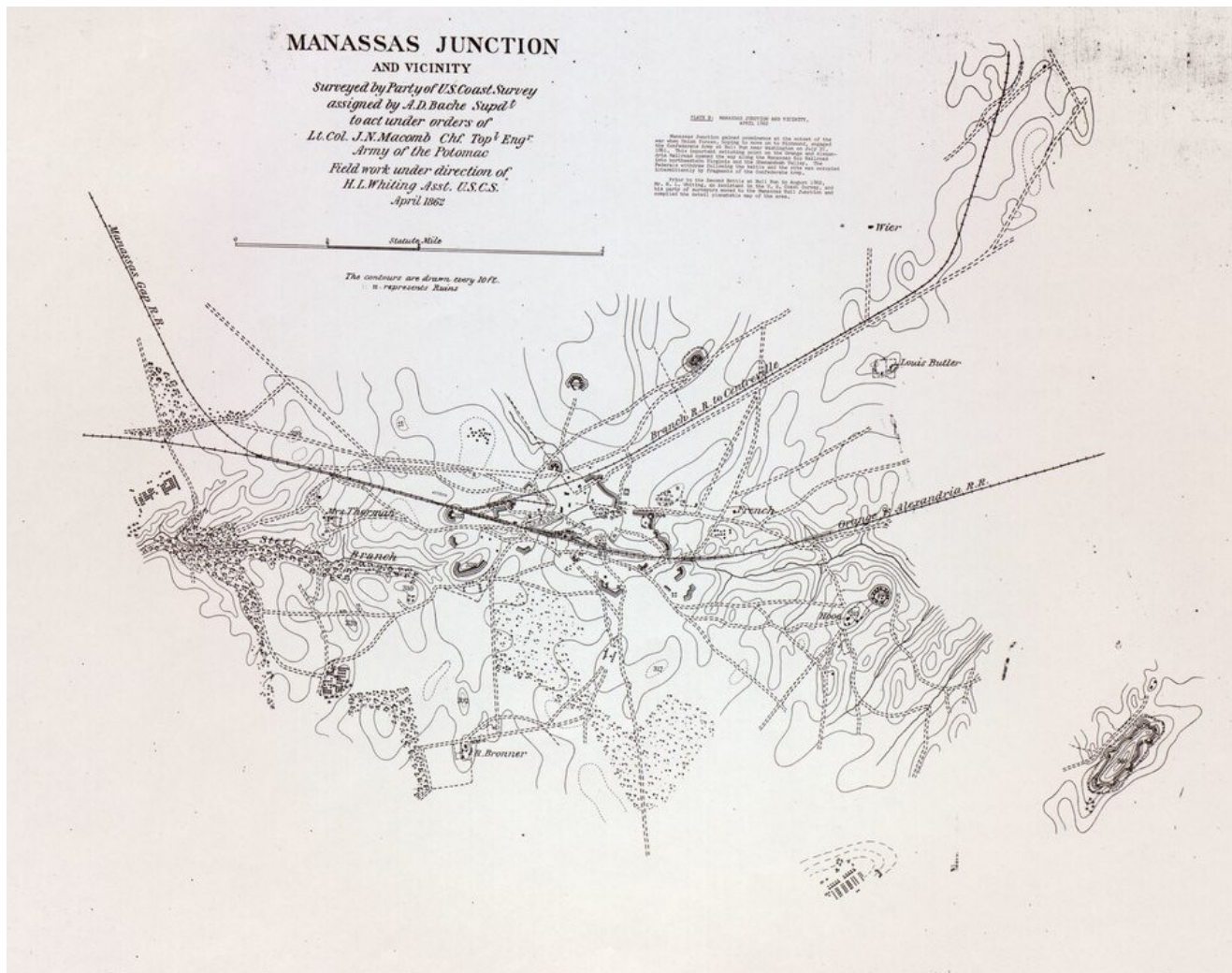
8 "New Jersey Troops Again in Conflict," *Newark Daily Advertiser*, August 29, 1862, 2.

9 Camille Baquet, *History of the First Brigade, New Jersey Volunteers* (State of New Jersey, 1910) 344.

BULL RUN BRIDGE

Why General Taylor did not reconnoiter properly before advancing on Manassas remains somewhat of a mystery. Taylor had familiarity with the Manassas area. Earlier that year in March, Taylor, then a colonel in command of the Third New Jersey, occupied Manassas after the Confederate evacuation. In his report, he described how on the morning of March 11, he crossed Bull Run and sent a company of skirmishers to Manassas Junction prior to the regiment's entry to the Junction.¹⁰

In the aftermath of defeat, several rose to defend Taylor. A letter received from an informant in Washington for a Newark newspaper defended Taylor, acknowledging he had no cavalry or artillery support and that he was only following his orders, "the first duty of a soldier."¹¹



Bull Run and Manassas Junction (Library of Congress)

10 Report of Col. George W. Taylor Third New Jersey Infantry. OR U.S. War Department, *The War of the Rebellion...* (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1880–1901), Ser. 1, vol. 5, 542-543.

11 "Washington Letter," *The Sentinel of Freedom*, September 9, 1862, 3.

AMBROSE BIERCE

By Tim Duskin

Ambrose Gwinnett Bierce was born at Horse Cave Creek in Meigs County, Ohio, in 1842 and grew up in Kosciusko County, Indiana. He briefly attended Kentucky Military Institute until it closed after a fire in 1860. When the Civil War came in 1861, Bierce enlisted in the 9th Indiana Infantry. He fought in the Battles of Philippi, Rich Mountain, Cheat Mountain, and Shiloh. He received newspaper attention for rescuing a gravely wounded fellow soldier under fire at Rich Mountain. He received a promotion to first lieutenant as a topographical engineer on the staff of Brigadier General William B. Hazen in 1863. Bierce suffered a severe brain injury at Kennesaw Mountain in 1864. He served through the Nashville Campaign, but resigned thereafter because of the continued effects of his head injury.

In 1866, Bierce reenlisted and served under then Colonel Hazen in the Plains Indian Wars. He received the rank of brevet major before resigning in San Francisco, where he remained and became a journalist. He also wrote realist fiction, including short stories about the Civil War. He published a book of these short stories in 1891 entitled *Tales of Soldiers and Civilians*. His most famous Civil War short story was "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge". It was made into several movies and radio programs and was also featured as episodes of both *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* and *The Twilight Zone*. It was the story of a Confederate soldier who faced execution at the hands of Union troops. Other Civil War short stories of his were "One of the Missing" and "Chickamauga". He also wrote a memoir entitled "What I Saw of Shiloh".

One of Bierce's writings related to the Civil War was a poem. At one Memorial Day oration, Edward S. Salomon bitterly protested against the decoration of the graves of Confederate soldiers. Bierce, who had been wounded by Confederate fire, replied to his fellow Union veteran with a poem entitled "The Brave Respect the Brave". He wrote:

What! Salomon! such words from you,
Who call yourself a soldier? Well,
The Southern brother where he fell
Slept all your base oration through.

Alike to him – he cannot know
Your praise or blame: as little harm
Your tongue can do him as your arm
A quarter-century ago.

The brave respect the brave. The brave
Respect the dead; but you – you draw
That ancient blade, the ass's jaw,
And shake it o'er a hero's grave.

Are you not he who makes to-day
A merchandise of old renown
Which he persuades this easy town
He won in battle far away?

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AMBROSE BIERCE

Nay, those the fallen who revile
Have ne'er before the living stood
And stoutly made their battle good
And greeted danger with a smile.

What if the dead whom still you hate
Were wrong? Are you so surely right?
We know the issues of the fight –
The sword is but an advocate.

Men live and die, and other men
Arise without knowledges diverse:
What seemed a blessing seems a curse,
And Now is still at odds with Then.

The years go on, the old comes back
To mock the new – beneath the sun
Is nothing new; ideas run
Recurrent in an endless track.

What most we censure, men as wise
Have reverently practiced; nor
Will future wisdom fail to war
On principles we dearly prize.

We do not know – we can but deem,
And he is loyalest and best
Who takes the light full on his breast
And follows it through the dream.

The broken light, the shadows wide –
Behold the battle-field displayed!
God save the vanquished from the blade,
The victor from the victor's pride.

If, Salomon, the blessed dew
That falls upon the Blue and Gray
Is powerless to wash away
The sin of differing from you,

Remember how the flood of years
Has rolled across the erring slain;
Remember, too, the cleansing rain
Of widows' and of orphans' tears.

The dead are dead – let that atone:
And though with equal hand we strew
The blooms on saint and sinner too,
Yet God will know to choose his own.

The wretch, whate'er his life and lot,
Who does not love the harmless dead
With all his heart and all his head –
May God forgive him, I shall not.

When, Salomon, you come to quaff
The Darker Cup with meeker face,
I, loving you at last, shall trace
Upon your tomb this epitaph:

(cont on page 16)

AMBROSE BIERCE

"Draw near, ye generous and brave –
Kneel round this monument and weep
For one who tried in vain to keep
A flower from a soldier's grave."

Bierce was clearly reflecting the sentiments of the poem "The Blue and the Gray" by Francis Miles Finch, which harkened to reconciliation and the healing and re-unification of the nation. Finch, a former Associate Judge of the New York Court of Appeals, wrote the poem in 1867 after reading an article in the *New York Tribune* which reported "The women of Columbus, Mississippi, animated by nobler sentiments than are many of their sisters, have shown themselves impartial in their offerings made to the memory of the dead. They strewed flowers alike on the graves of the Confederate and of the National soldiers."

In 1913, Bierce went to Mexico to cover the revolution which was led by Pancho Villa. While he was there, he disappeared, never to be seen or heard from again.

CIVIL WAR SHOW AND SALE

Here's an event courtesy of BRCWRT 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 (703-971-4984), or

Bud Mayo mayo5304@cox.net (703-389-1505).

CONFERENCE ON THE ART OF COMMAND IN THE CIVIL WAR

The 28th Annual Conference on the Art of Command in the Civil War has been scheduled for Friday, October 2nd, 2026 at the Middleburg Community Center, 300 West Washington Street, Middleburg VA, starting at 4 PM. It will continue on Saturday from 8 AM until closing. There will be a Mosby Bus Tour on Sunday, October 4th starting PROMPTLY at 8 AM (the bus leaves then) and running until approximately 5 PM.

Speakers and topics include:

Don Hakenson: "The emergence of John Mosby as a Leader in Partisan Warfare" and
"The Fairfax, Loudoun Heights, and Berryville Raids"

Dennis Fry: "Trembling Trains: Mosby Trauma? Or Drama?"

Chuck Mauro: "The Importance of Women to the Military During the Civil War"

Eric Buckland: "Mosby's Extraordinary Leadership Skill" and
"The Hunter/Killers: Blazer's Independent Union Scouts"

Robert O'Neill: "Fighting in Mosby's Shadow: The War Along the Union Picket Lines"

David Goetz: "John S. Mosby's Life After The War"

For registration, please call 1-540-687-6681.



PRINCE WILLIAM

Historic Preservation



www.pwcva.gov/history
HistoricPreservation@pwcgov.org
www.historicprincewilliam.org
 703-792-1731

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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>

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Thank you for your continued interest in the BRCWRT!

Here are your payment options:

Annual Dues:

Individual: \$20.00

Family: \$25.00

Student (21 & under): FREE!

Three-Year Option:

\$55.00

\$65.00

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

-OR-

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

-OR-

You may mail this form and the check to:

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

NAME(S)_____

NAME(S) FOR BADGE (if different)_____

If there are any changes:

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP_____

PHONE_____ EMAIL_____

Are there any BRCWRT activities you would like to help with (tours, selling used books, member recruitment, newsletter articles, annual picnic)?

Do you have any suggestions for additional BRCWRT activities? _____