

Bull Run Civil War Round Table (BRCWRT) Preservation Corner
February 26, 2021



Greetings BRCWRT Members - I trust you and your family and friends are doing well and remain safe and healthy. This edition of *Preservation Corner* provides updates on two specific preservation activities in which BRCWRT has been involved.

Route 28 Bypass Project

www.route28bypass.com.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)'s Route 28 Transportation Study and Project is focused on infrastructure projects that will improve travel times and network reliability on Route 28 through Prince William County, the City of Manassas and the City of Manassas Park.

On February 18, 2021 Prince William County Department of Transportation (PWC DOT) hosted a meeting to inform residents about the Route 28 Bypass project, including background and current project status. The majority of time was reserved for questions from residents. Along with PWC DOT, panelists from the PWC Planning Office, Department of Public Works, and Parks, Recreation, and Office of Tourism were available to answer residents' questions. DOT's presentation provided a general overview of the project including the current timeline; Design and Engineering 2021 - 2023, Right of Way & Utilities 2023 - 2025, Construction 2025 - 2027. The majority of the meetings was devoted to resident questions and Panel member responses. A complete recording of the meeting, including the DOT presentation and the follow-on Q&A Panel, is available at www.route28bypass.com.



Route 28 ByPass - Godwin Road Extension (PWC DOT Presentation)

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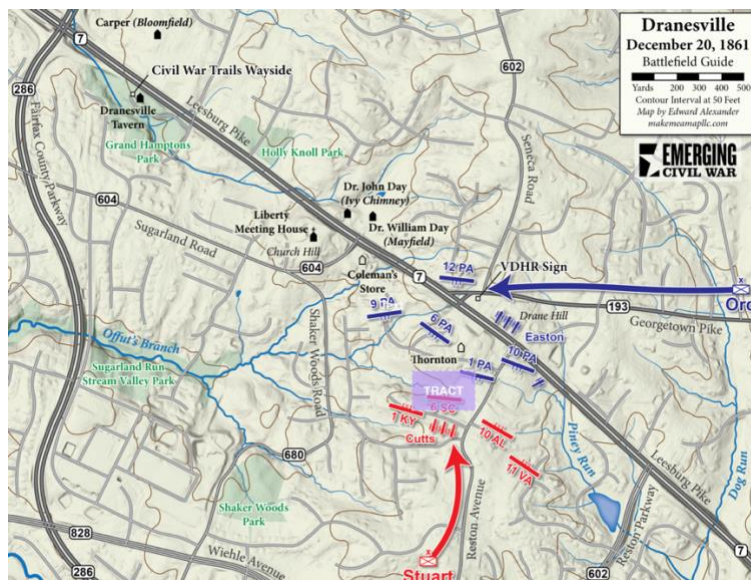


BRCWRT continues to monitor the Route 28 Bypass project and, in collaboration with NOVA Parks and MNBP, will continue our engagement with PWC DOT to ensure potentially threatened cultural and historic sites are protected. Known historic sites within the project area include the original Mitchell's Ford site, remnants of civil war earthworks constructed to guard Mitchell's Ford and remnants of earthworks constructed to guard the Bull Run crossing of the Confederate Military Railroad. Additional sites north of Bull Run may be discovered as the definitive route to, and location of, the Bypass intersection with Route 28 are determined. PWC DOT plans to continue hosting information meetings (to be scheduled) and conducting resident communications and outreach on specific topics of concern to PWC residents.

Dranesville Battlefield

The preservation initiative to save four acres of core Dranesville Battlefield begun in September 2020 has ended unsuccessfully. Unfortunately, negotiations between the former land owner's estate and the American Battlefield Trust (ABT) have been terminated on the mutual consent of both parties.

Though a relatively small affair between the units of the Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteer Corps under the command of Brigadier General E.O.C Ord and Confederate Infantry under the command of Brigadier General J.E.B. Stuart, the fighting in the Battle of Dranesville on December 20, 1861 was fierce and left a strong impression on those who fought here. The objective land tract lies directly across today's U.S. Rt 7/Leesburg Pike from the Dranesville Church of the Brethren which sits on what was in 1861 Drane Hill (see map, below).

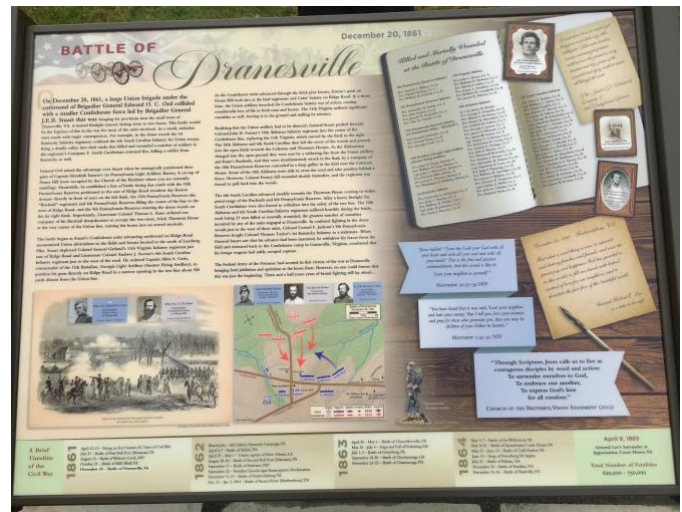


Battle of Dranesville Map, Annotated with Land Tract (Emerging Civil War)

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Readers are reminded of the Battle of Dranesville historical marker installed on October 10, 2020, at the Dranesville Church of the Brethren (11500 Leesburg Pike, Herndon). The marker is located on what, in 1861, was known as Drane Hill - - which overlooked the route of approaching Confederate forces under the temporary command of Brigadier General J.E.B. Stuart and was the location of three guns from Easton's Battery of the Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteer Corps which was under the command of Brigadier General E.O.C. Ord.



Battle of Dranesville Historical Marker (Greg Wilson, Blake Myers)

Thank you for your continued interest in, and support of, BRCWRT's historic preservation actions and activities. Stay strong, stay safe and stay healthy in 2021!

Blake Myers
BRCWRT Preservation Chair