



The Newsletter of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table — Vol. XIV, Issue 3—APRIL 2007

DON ERNSBERGER TO SPEAK

On The 69th Pennsylvania Defense Of The Wall At Gettysburg 3 July 1863

Historian Don Ernsberger first spoke to the BRCWRT members on 9 March 2006 on the history of the 69th Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment. His acclaimed two-volume history on the cited regiment (1091 pages, 350,000 words and 58 photographs) was published in 2004. Prior to Don Ernsberger's grand opus, the only other book on the 69th PA was a brief history, published in 1889, by two unit veterans—Anthony W. McDermott and John I. Reilly. And if it were not for donations by a number of blue-collar members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, even this thin book would not have been published.

The 69th PA drew its members from Irish neighborhoods of Philadelphia. Most of them were manual workers in the "last hired—first fired" category. So intense was the nativist feeling against the Irish in 1861 that, quoting Don Ernsberger, "Their services were not always welcomed by many at the start of the war".

Regardless, the 69th PA served with distinction from September 1861 through the Appomattox Campaign of April 1865. The unit participated in every major battle of the Army of the Potomac. The 69th PA was one of what historian William F. Fox called the "Three Hundred Fighting Regiments". This meant that the 69th PA was one of the 300 regiments that sustained the heaviest battle losses in terms of killed and died of wounds.

On 3 July 1863 at Gettysburg, the 69th PA had a "rendezvous with destiny" that gave the gallant men of that regiment special recognition and a place of honor in the recorded annals of that battle. On cited date, the 69th PA held the center of the II U.S. Corps line against the onslaught of MG Pickett's Division. Don Ernsberger's presentation will give an eye opening and detailed account of the combat "At the Wall". Further, he will cover the postwar controversies associated with the 69th PA's defense of "The Wall" on 3 July 1863.

Don Ernsberger was born in Fremont, OH and is descended from men who served in Ohio and New York infantry units during the Civil War. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Penn State in 1969. Following graduation, Don commenced a teaching career that lasted for 30 years. During this period he earned a MA Degree and a PhD from Temple University.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday 12 April

7:00 P.M. Centreville Library

GUEST SPEAKER:

Don Ernsberger

SUBJECT:

**At The Wall: The 69th
Pennsylvania "Irish"
Volunteers at Gettysburg**

**Signing of above titled book
Book Cost \$15**

Our guest speaker taught U.S. History in the Bucks County (PA) Public School System for 12 years. This was followed by a stint of 18 years at Penn State where the focus of his labors was on "Political Philosophy 1900 to the Present". Following his retirement from teaching, Don embarked on a new career on Capitol Hill. Since 2000 he has been the Deputy Chief of Staff for U.S. Representative Dana Rohrabacher of California.

It would be an understatement to label Don as a Civil War buff. He is a member of the Gettysburg Battlefield Guide Association and the Gettysburg Chat Room. Don is the Chairman of the 69th PA Reenactors. Don informed me that his unit has one of the largest numbers of reenactors in the region.

If you want to know what really happened at "The Wall", join us on Thursday, 12 April, for a well researched and thought provoking presentation. I assure you that you will enjoy Don Ernsberger's talk.

* * *

**GREAT NEWS REGARDING
CENTREVILLE HISTORIC OVER-
LAY DISTRICT (CHOD)**

See Page 3

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Executive Committee

President: John McAnaw— [703.978.3371]
Immediate Past President: Keith Young
 RKeith_Young@compuserve.com
Vice-President: John De Pue—jfdpue@comcast.net
Treasurer: Mark Knowles [703.787.9811]
Secretary: Dale Maschino [703.734.3244] or
 smasch1@verizon.net

At Large:
 Ed Wenzel, Charlie Balch and Maureen Quinn
Field Trips: Kevin Anastas, KKA2@cox.net
Webmaster: Ken Jones KJones111@cox.net
Newsletter Editor: Sandra Cox
 scox@capitalav.com [703.675.0702]
Newsletter Team:
 Nancy Anwyll, Dale Maschino, Ed Wenzel, Ken Jones,
 Andy Kapfer and Janet Greentree
 The Bull Run Civil War Round Table publishes the *Stone Wall*.
General Membership meetings are held at 7:00
 p.m. on the second Thursday of the
 month at:

The Centreville Regional Library
 14200 St. Germain Drive
 Centreville, VA 20121-2299
 703.830.2223

For specific meeting dates and information,
 please visit the WEBSITE:
<http://bullruncwrt.org>

ROUND TABLE BOOK SALES

Please remember to bring your used Civil War
 books to our meetings to aid in our ongoing
 book sales. Besides helping to raise money for
 the BRCWRT, these books help raise our
 members' understanding of the Civil War.
 Thank You.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Dave Goetz
Martha Lang
Ron Mayer
Alan Nobiling
Alan Norris



The PETERSBURG NATIONAL
 BATTLEFIELD is looking to expand
 its living history program to help tell the events of
 the 9 1/2 month siege. We are looking for re-
 enactors representing telegraph operators, signal
 corps, engineers, medical personnel, USSC &
 USCC, etc.

If interested, contact Grant Gates at
 Grant_Gates@nps.gov or (804) 732-3531 X 202.

JOIN US AT THE BORDER CAFE

Do you come directly to the monthly meeting from
 work and look for a place to eat, or would you just like to come
 early for dinner? Join the BRCWRT board and our monthly guest
 speaker for good food and camaraderie.

We are currently meeting at The Border Cafe at 5:15
 p.m. just across Lee Highway from the library. **Space is lim-
 ited so RSVP** to Dale Maschino at smasch1verizon.net or
 703.734.3244 no later than Tuesday before each meeting.

Of course, it's always Dutch treat for the 'cheap and
 the proud'! Bring cash to get us out quickly.



SUBMISSION DEADLINE
For MAY 2007 Issue

E-mail Articles By 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 30
 To scox@capitalav.com

If you do not receive an acknowledgment of your e-mail
 article by deadline, please call Sandra at 703.675.0702
 (cell) or 540.752.9500 (Capital AV) as it may have been
 blocked by company software.

In This Issue

Upcoming Meetings	Page 3
CHOD News	Page 3
Connecting to Our Past	Page 4
Calendar of Events	Page 5
Conf Gen Needs a Prayer	Page 7
Brentsville Courthouse	Page 7
Ox Hill Update	Page 8
Upcoming Tours	Page 5, 9



The President's Column By John P. McAnaw

We had a large turnout at our monthly meeting on 8 March to listen to member Chuck Mauro discuss his new book *The Civil War In Fairfax County: Civilians and Soldiers*. A total of 91 members listened to his presentation, which focused on the impact of the war on county civilians not only during the war but also during the post war period. Many attendees purchased his very informative book. Chuck, well done!

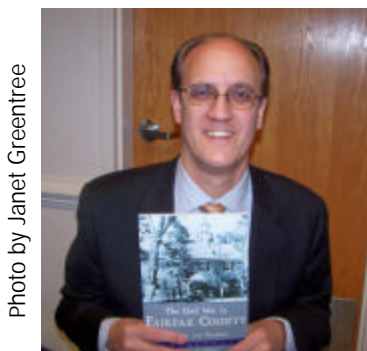


Photo by Janet Greentree

Many members remember Don Ernsberger's talk on 9 March 2006 that covered the history of the 69th Pennsylvania "Irish Volunteers". He will be back on 12 April to speak about his new book on the 69th PA. If you are interested in what happened at "the wall" at Gettysburg on Day Three, then I strongly recommend that you attend. It will be an educational experience.

Mark your calendar for 10 May as a reminder to attend Ed Bearss' presentation on three specific actions that occurred during the Battle of Gettysburg. Needless to state, Ed is in a class by himself. It is an honor to have Ed speak annually to the BRCWRT. Also, on that date, we will celebrate the 16th Anniversary of the founding of our Round Table. Come early, enjoy the refreshments and meet some of your fellow members. Two days later (12 May) we will have our annual Gettysburg tour and walk the terrain, not only of the three actions spoken about by Ed Bearss, but also the ground over which BG Elon Farnsworth conducted his abortive charge on 3 July 1863.

Speaking of tours, please read the articles in this issue regarding our **Trevilian Station Battlefield tour on 21 April 2007**. If you are unfamiliar with the war's "Largest All Cavalry Battle" and/or that part of Louisa County where the combat occurred, you are in for a very informative tour. Few in-depth group tours have been conducted of the Trevilian Station Battlefield. Thanks to the untiring efforts of President Gerald Harlow's Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation plus welcomed support from the Civil War Preservation Trust, great progress has been made in acquiring land. At present about 2000 battlefield acres have been saved. However, a good bit of the land is not readily accessible to the public.

Our 2007 membership campaign is progressing satisfactorily. However, I ask those members who have not yet paid their 2007 dues to please do so. Yes, we

UPCOMING MEETINGS

10 May 2007

Ed Bearss

SUBJECT:

Gettysburg: East Cemetery Hill, Culp's Hill and East Cavalry Field

NOTE: 16th Anniversary Party of Founding of Bull Run Civil War Round Table

14 June 2007

Steve Hull

SUBJECT:

Danger Between The Lines: Hunter Mill Road During The Civil War

12 July 2007

Frank O'Reilly

SUBJECT:

General Robert E. Lee: Marching Out Of Step

need the dues money, but more importantly, we miss your non-monetary contributions to Round Table programs. A concerted effort will be made in April to reclaim all 2006 members and recruit new members.

Take care and enjoy the fluctuating spring weather.

* * *

GREAT NEWS REGARDING THE CENTREVILLE HISTORIC OVERLAY DISTRICT (CHOD)!

As long-term members of our organization know, the BRCWRT has been heavily involved in the preservation of Civil War sites in Fairfax County for many years. A major focal point of our efforts has been on the greater Centreville area. Members have testified before the County Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on numerous occasions

See CENTREVILLE

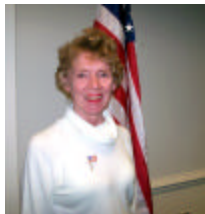
Page 6

CONNECTING TO OUR PAST.....

By Janet Greentree

Meet Patty Wheeler

Photo by Janet Green-



Meet our second woman profiled consecutively, Patty Wheeler, a Western girl from Laramie, Wyoming, the land of wide-open spaces, high altitude, rugged snow-covered mountains, forests of lodgepole pine, and more antelope than people. In 1962 she graduated from the University of Wyoming with a degree in international affairs. She worked in Denver for a few years to get work experience and do some more growing up. Then in 1965 she landed a job with the Central Intelligence Agency in Langley. It was quite an adjustment to come from a small town into the political arena of Washington. She had to get used to the rain and all the deciduous trees, but absolutely fell in love with the beautiful landscapes of Virginia. She's lived in Fairfax County for more than 40 years and is proud to call it her home.

"The smartest thing I ever did was to marry Dick Wheeler." As a bonus, he had four children from his first marriage. All are grown up now, married, and have children of their own. Patty now has twelve step-grandchildren. Her husband died in 2001. She retired in 1996 but continued working for the next ten years. Now she's re-retired. Seeking to rebuild her life in retirement, she cultivated her life-long love of opera, bought season tickets to six opera companies in the D.C. Metro area, and enjoyed attending all the performances immensely.

It was only in 2005 that she stumbled into the Civil War. It started at a living history event at Sully Plantation Park in August, 2005. A few hours with the ladies in hoop skirts, gentlemen in uniforms, and she was hooked, lined, and sinkered! She's visited several battlefields, overloaded her bookshelves with Civil War books, and has met the most interesting and well-informed people through this interest.

Patty doesn't know of any ancestors in the Civil War, as most of them were homesteaders in Nebraska Territory. However, they may have sold their crops and livestock to the Federal Army.

Her favorite person in the Civil War is John Buford, as not only was he an excellent cavalryman and commander, but he was also the handsomest hunk on either side. The words "the Devil to pay" seem to be ringing in my head here. The last Civil War book Patty read was *Marching Through Culpeper* by Virginia Beard

Morton, one of our excellent speakers a while back. Patty was fascinated because this historical novel was so well documented with footnotes, endnotes, and with photographs of the characters. The meticulous research of real people and events, combined with the fictional heroine, make this book one of the best Patty's ever read – fiction or nonfiction. Wouldn't it make a great movie?

Now that Patty is re-retired, she's been visiting battlefields, museums, etc. during the week. She's been on several group tours to out-of-town sites, she's in a CW chatroom on the internet, and goes to several reenactments a year. She's most interested in battlefield preservation and wants to help save our most valuable legacy. Patty's visited thirteen battlefields – Gettysburg, Manassas, Cedar Creek, Antietam, South Mountain, Ball's Bluff, Fredericksburg, Richmond, Petersburg, Big Bethel, Brandy Station, Chickamauga, and of course Ox Hill. She says to make that fourteen battlefields if you count the Pipe Creek Line, which wasn't a battlefield but certainly was a factor in Meade's new command of the Army of the Potomac. In June she's going to Franklin and Murfreesboro, TN. She's says she's not done yet and hopes to add many more to her list.

Patty has two interesting things to share with us. Her great-great-grandfather, James Edwards Brown, was a young homesteader in the Nebraska Territory during the war. The May 2006 issue of *Civil War Times* printed a letter that she wrote about him, as a follow-up to Jeffry D. Wert's article about homesteading during and after the war.

The second story is perfect for this April issue. It's about her husband Dick's maternal grandmother, Isabelle Gardner, who was born in Illinois April 11, 1857. She died at age 99 in 1956. During the week that she turned eight years old in April, 1865, her parents took her on a trip to Washington, D.C., where she had an extraordinary experience. It seems that the Gardner family stayed in Washington's finest hotel, Willard's. It was hot that week, so at night they opened the windows for fresh air. On Good Friday evening, little Isabelle was fast asleep when she was awakened by a ruckus outside. She went to the window and looked down on the street below. Men were milling around, carrying torches, and shouting excitedly. She heard them say, "The President's been shot! The President's been shot!" It made such a deep impression on her that she remembered the story to tell her grandson. As a boy, Dick loved to sit on his grandmother's lap and hear her tell the story. Did she know about Lee's surrender the previous Palm Sunday? Patty thinks probably not and assumes that Isabelle's parents sheltered her from the war as much as they could, but they couldn't prevent her seeing and hearing about that dreadful night.

Patty claims to be a "sergeant-major" in the Cedar Creek Brigade, a "private" in the Friends of Fort Ward, and a "private" in the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. Glad to have you aboard, Patty.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Note: If you plan to attend an event, please verify the information given. Advance reservation and fee may apply. If you would like an event posted please e-mail Dale Maschino at smasch1@verizon.net.

7, 14, 21, 28 Apr – Bus tour, “John Wilkes Booth Escape Route,” popular 12-hour tour sponsored by the Surratt House Museum in Clinton, MD. \$60 Call 301-868-1121, or www.surratt.org.

7, 21 Apr – Manassas hike. Annual four-hour, five-mile walk on the First Manassas Battlefield with living history along the way at the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Noon. Free with park fee. Call 703-361-1339, or www.nps.gov/mana.

7 Apr – Clean up day. Battlefield and Civil War site clean up sponsored by the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT). Dozens of sites. Info: www.civilwar.org.

14 Apr – Baltimore lecture. “Yankee River, Rebel Shore: The Union Navy Along the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers,” at the USS Constellation in the Inner Harbor. 2 pm. Free with admission. Call 410-539-1797, or www.constellation.org.

14, 28 Apr – Manassas hike. Annual four-hour, five-mile walk on the Second Manassas battlefield with living history along the way at the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Noon. Free with park fee. Call 703-361-1339, or www.nps.gov/mana.

14-15 Apr – Civil War Show, annual event at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly. Hundreds of display tables with artifacts, books, and other Civil War material for show and sale. 9 am-5 pm Saturday, 10 am-2 pm Sunday. \$8. Call 703-823-1958.

15 Apr – Antietam battlefield hike. “The Burnside Bridge,” two-hour walk meets at Tour Stop No. 9 at 1:15 pm. Free with park admission. Call 301-432-5124, or link to www.nps.gov/anti.

21 Apr – Rose Hill, self guided tour of rarely open property, scene of heavy fighting during the Battle of First Kernstown (south of Winchester). 1-4 pm \$6. Rose Hill is owned by the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. Call 888-556-5799, or www.shenandoanvalleymuseum.org.

21 Apr – Richmond, the annual Confederate Heritage Parade. Living History units and 1860's military bands are featured in the march down Monument Ave. and then to Hollywood Cemetery. Parade begins at the DMV building on Broad Street at 2 pm. Free. Programs at the Lee Monument and in Hollywood Cemetery Confederate Section. Details at www.va-scv.org.

21 Apr – Living history, “Mosby Owned the Night,” part of a series presented by the Mosby Heritage Area, at

Brentmoor, 173 Main Street, Warrenton. 7:30 pm. Free. Call 540-687-6681, or www.mosbyheritagearea.org.

21, 22 Apr – Harpers Ferry National Park, “Rally of Virginia 1861: Citizens to Soldiers.” Living history, 11 am-4 pm. Free with admission. Call 304-535-6029, or www.nps.gov/hafe.

22 Apr – Antietam Battlefield hike, “Attack on Lee’s Right.” Two-hour walk meets at tour stop No. 9 at 1:15 pm. Free with park admission. Call 301-432-5124, or www.nps.gov/anti.

28 Apr – Monocacy Battlefield hikes, three areas of the battlefield highlighted in two-hour walks. 8:30 am, 11 am, and 1:30 pm. Free, Reservations required. Call 301-662-3515, or link to www.nps.gov/mono.

BRCWRT 2007 Spring Tour Gettysburg, Odds & Ends

Culp’s Hill, Cemetery Hill, East Cavalry, Farnsworth’s Charge



BG Elon Farnsworth

DATE: Saturday 12 May 2007

ASSEMBLY LOCATION/TIME: Carpoolers, meet at the Centreville Library parking lot – we will depart at 7:00 AM sharp. Drive on your own, meet in the parking lot south of the Gettysburg Battlefield Visitor Center. We will depart the Visitor’s Center parking lot at 9:00 AM for the tour. (Driving time from Centreville is about 1 hour 45 min).

TOUR DURATION: 9:00 AM until about 3:00 PM.

LUNCH: We will return to the area around the Visitor’s Center for lunch. Please pack a sandwich and join us for a picnic or walk across the street for fast food .

TOUR GUIDES: Kevin Anastas Cell: (703) 431-2569. E-mail kka2@cox.net. Maureen Quinn, (703) 263-1881. E-Mail mrmquinn@verizon.net

PHYSICAL EXERTION. Moderate to high. We will be walking up some steep slopes (Culp’s Hill, Cemetery Hill). We will provide information on linkup points if you don’t want to walk the steep parts.

SIGN UP. Please sign up using the link on the BRCWRT website. I will also pass around a sign up list at the April and May meetings.

THE NEW USS *MONITOR* CENTER

By Bud Porter

On March 9, the 145th anniversary of the Battle of Hampton Roads, I had the good fortune to attend the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony of the *USS Monitor* Center at The Mariners Museum in Newport News, VA.

The center is the official recipient and caretaker of all items recovered from the salvage of the sunken ironclad. The center not only displays these recovered artifacts but includes a full scale replica of the ship as well as individual mock ups of the skipper's state room, the engine room and the famous revolving gun turret. The real turret and parts of the engine are still in view in a solution designed to enable them to withstand the atmosphere when they are put on display.

There are well made films reenacting the battle in a unique theatre and showing the challenging recovery of the *Monitor* from a depth of over 240 feet. The turret alone weighs 140 tons. The specially designed device used to retrieve the turret is also on display. There are also several exhibits covering the *Monitor's* adversary, the *CSS Virginia*.

If you are interested in nautical history and/or engineering, The Mariners Museum has several excellent exhibits including one on the Titanic. The museum's website is www.MarineersMuseum.org.

I highly recommend a visit to the museum which is less than three hours away. I also attended and recommend the nearby Jamestown Settlement museum and the Yorktown battlefields.

* * *

RATCLIFFE HOUSE UPDATE

BRCWRT member Bill Etue advised that at a March 7 hearing in Richmond of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, testimony was given by members of the Friends of the Laura Ratcliffe House supporting the placement of the Laura Ratcliffe House on the National Register of Historic Places. The proposal was officially passed and the home will now be on the National Register. A celebration was held by supporters at the house on March 11.

Laura Ratcliffe was a Confederate spy who saved the life of John Singleton Mosby. General JEB Stuart often wrote to Laura appreciating her assistance, including poems to her considered to be "love letters".

The famous "Mosby's Rock", where intelligence was hidden and retrieved, is on Laura's property and is recognized by a Virginia State Historical marker. The address is 2346 Centreville Road, Herndon, VA 20171-3016 which is one block from the Centreville Road exit of the Dulles Airport toll road.

For additional information, contact Bill Etue at 703.620.3153 or billetue@aol.com.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES REPRODUCTION FEES

Submitted by Keith Young

The National Archives and Records Administration is planning to implement a rule that will substantially increase the cost of obtaining copies of certain records from their files. The big increase looks to be in the cost of getting complete Union Civil War pension files. (Confederate pensions, when issued, were from the former Confederate states and are not held by NARA.) This information may be of interest to some of our BRCWRT members.

The methods available for making comments prior to the rule taking effect are listed in the proposed rule from the Federal Register. The full text of the rule may be viewed by clicking the link below. April 27th is the deadline for making comments.

<http://bullruncwrt.org/BRCWRT/Newsletters07/NARARule.pdf>

* * *

CENTREVILLE

[Continued from Page 3]

In my President's Column of last month, I gave an update on the status of a very important tract, called the "Rice Property", which was under consideration by the BOS for acquisition and also for inclusion in the proposed expanded CHOD.

Now for some very good news! On 26 February 2007, the BOS unanimously approved a major expansion of the CHOD, increasing (according to the local newspaper) the acreage from 17 to almost 85! On 30 March, I requested an updated and accurate map of the expanded CHOD from the Sully District Supervisor's office to verify the amount of increased acreage. I was informed that it should be available on or about 14 April. Also, on 29 March I received an e-mail from Michael Frey, the Sully District Supervisor, stating that on Monday, 26 March, the BOS authorized the purchase by the County of the entire 3.68-acre "Rice Property". This tract has Civil War sites of great importance on it. Supervisor Frey also mentioned that the BOS "expected all details to be resolved and settlement should occur in the next few weeks".

I hope the reader realizes the importance of the acquisition of the "Rice Property" and the expansion of the CHOD. Let us pray that our future preservation efforts will also bear fruit.

CONFEDERATE CAVALRY GENERAL NEEDS A PRAYER

By John McAnaw

BG Pierce Manning Butler Young was a fearless and proficient cavalry officer who served during part of 1864 with Hampton's Division of the Cavalry Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. While commanding his brigade on 30 May 1864, he was gravely wounded in the chest during an engagement near Hanover Court House. Consequently, he was not with his brigade during the severe fighting at the Battle of Trevilian Station on 11-12 June 1864. He was sorely missed.

Before continuing, it should be noted that the carefree brigadier had many female friends during the war. In fact he was engaged five times, yet failed to marry any of his fiancées.

Now back to what happened after BG Young was wounded on 30 May 1864. Some of his staff officers thought that he was mortally wounded. At this point, permit me to turn over the story of what happened next to BG Young's biographer, Lynwood M. Holland:

Major Church, believing that General Young was going to die, asked Captain Aldrich to pray for him, but the captain replied that he did not know how, and in turn, requested the major to pray; but the latter acknowledged that he too did not know how to pray. Major Church then asked Sandy Dooker of Barnwell, Georgia, the orderly of the staff, to pray for the General. Sandy gave the same excuse as his superior officers, but when the Major turned his request into a command Sandy had to obey orders.

The orderly took off his cap and knelt by the stretcher on which the wounded General lay. "He began to pray and to talk to the Lord in quite a favorable manner about as follows: 'You know Lord, the General is badly wounded, and not liable to recover; have mercy on him, for you know he has been a wicked man.'

"Just then the General interrupted, and said: 'Sandy, what is the use to remind the Lord of that? Why don't you say something good in my favor?'

"Sandy being interrupted, was disconcerted and ceased praying, remarking that he couldn't pray much no how, and if he couldn't do it his own way, he wouldn't do it at all.

"The General said that such prayers reminding the Lord of his shortcomings, were not calculated to do a man in his fix much good, and did not urge Sandy to proceed any further."

Pierce M.B. Young (1836-1896) had a very distinguished military career during the Civil War. Following that conflict, he was a prominent Democratic politician from Georgia who served in the U.S. House of Representatives during the period 1868-1875. Subsequently he held consular and diplomatic posts with both Democratic and Republican administrations.

I extend my thanks to Historian Frank O'Reilly, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, who provided me the reference for this article which is Holland, Lynwood M., *Pierce M.B. Young: The Warwick of the South*, Athens, GA, University of Georgia Press, 1964. pp 83-84.

* * *

BRENTSVILLE COURTHOUSE GRAND OPENING

Hosted by the Prince William County Department of
Public Works Historic Preservation Division

Sponsored by the Friends of Brentsville Courthouse
Historic Center



COURT DAY—Sat. May 5, 11—5

Join us for a day of fun-filled family activities with the grand opening ceremony! Take part in court trials in the newly restored courthouse and interact with historic crafters and tradesmen. Listen to a lecture about Prince William County's history. Drill and muster with a Civil War unit. And much more!

PREPARING FOR WAR—Sun. May 6, 11-3

Several Civil War units were formed in Brentsville by Prince William County citizens. The first was Company A of the 4th Virginia Cavalry, in response to the John Brown Raid. Come see these local units recruit, muster and drill in preparation of the coming war. Civil War camp life will also be demonstrated.

For additional event information, please call (703) 365-7895.

TODD BERKOFF TO SPEAK ON BATTLE OF BRISTOE STATION

The Prince William County Historic Preservation Division will conclude its third annual lecture on local history and preservation efforts on April 26. Todd Berkoff will discuss the Battle of Bristoe Station. The lecture is free to the public and held at 7 p.m. at the Old Manassas Courthouse, 9244 Lee Avenue in Manassas. Seating is limited and reservations are recommended. Call 703.792.5632

Sixty people attended BRCWRT member Mark Trbovich's March lecture so be sure to make your reservation early.

PARK AUTHORITY ALTERS OX HILL INTERPRETIVE PACKAGE; REVIEWERS SENT OLD KIOSK TEXTS

by Ed Wenzel

The Ox Hill Battlefield Park's interpretive saga continues this month with more new twists. Under a cover letter dated 9 March, the Fairfax County Park Authority finally sent copies of its kiosk and wayside marker texts to reviewers. Most of the mailings went out in mid to late March and each included a copy of the park's Interpretive Plan.

After receiving this material, the writer was surprised to find that Kiosk Panel #3, "The Battle At Ox Hill" was not what the Interpretive Team had agreed to on 7 December. At that meeting the team agreed to break panel #3 (the overview) into three parts so as to include critical information that will not fit on a single panel. Now, the team leaders have changed the text back to the single panel 11 October version, while retaining part three of the 7 December overview on a wayside marker. This was done without notice or consultation.

The Wayside Marker texts (1 thru 8) were also changed from the 7 December revisions of various team members, to texts composed by the writer, with help from Charlie Balch of the Round Table. While the marker text change is welcome by the Kearny/Stevens trustees and the BRCWRT, the change for Kiosk panel #3 is not welcome, because it reverts back to the inadequate and simplified text of five months ago.

As I've explained many times to the team leaders, the "kiosk" is the visitor contact station for Ox Hill. While the kiosk's overview of the battle should be brief and general, it must still present enough facts to engage the visitor with authoritative information. It cannot be so general, or vague, that it leaves out important details that the visitor should know *before* walking up the trail to the wayside markers.

The text for Kiosk panel #3 "The Battle At Ox Hill", as mailed to the reviewers, leaves out the following important information:

1. Does not say when the Second Manassas battle was fought.
2. Does not identify Pope's or Lee's armies by name.
3. Refers to Centreville, but not the fortified "heights" of Centreville.
4. Does not mention the Little River Turnpike, Jackson's flank route.
5. Does not mention the Warrenton Turnpike, Pope's line of retreat.
6. Omits mention of the Union defensive force ordered to Germantown.

7. Vaguely states that the IX Corps was sent to check Jackson "near Germantown" rather than Ox Hill.
8. Day and time of Stevens' order not given.
9. Stevens' reason for attacking not stated.
10. Only one brigade of Kearny's division was engaged, not the whole division.
11. Kearny was not pushing "his division" forward when he was killed.
12. That hundreds of Union wounded were left behind is not stated.
13. That only 10,000 of Jackson's troops were engaged is not stated.
14. Casualties not mentioned.
15. Lee's and Longstreet's arrival, and the encampment of September 2nd, not mentioned.
16. No reference is made to the start of the Maryland Campaign.

[Note: Items 12-16 above are covered by "The Aftermath" text of Wayside Marker #9. This information was supposed to go in the kiosk following part one, "Preliminary Action" and part two, "The Main Battle", but because of the six-panel limit they've imposed, was placed on a wayside marker at the end of the trail.]

Also, Kiosk panel #1, "The Civil War Battle of Ox Hill" is supposed to be an "Introduction", yet it doesn't say it's an "Introduction" and the title is almost the same as that of panel #3 "The Battle At Ox Hill". This is confusing. I pointed this out before, and wrote a better text for the Introduction, but that text was judged a "political statement" and rejected (see complete February update E-mailed to members).

Also, no one proofread the Interpretive Plan that accompanied the texts. A number of mistakes went unnoticed and the attached site plan is the wrong one. It's the January 24, 2006 plan showing the handicapped trail going through the Kearny/Stevens monument lot. This was changed at the March 8, 2006 site visit, and other trail alignments were changed as well.

In other Ox Hill developments, on March 9th I learned from a resident of the Fairfield House condominiums just south of the park, that she had received a letter dated January 12th from SWSG Engineering (the site engineer). The letter said that SWSG was "proposing a minor site plan" for the park and described the type of work they would do there. The letter also referred to a "storm water analysis" that they developed to deal with expected changes in the storm water run off. Attached to the letter was a scaled down copy of Ox Hill's latest site plan dated June 15, 2006. I had not seen this revision and it was never presented at any of our Interpretive Team meetings.

See OX HILL Page 9

OX HILL

[Continued from Page 8]

When I reached Project Team leader, Michael Rierson, and asked about the site plan and when the work would start, he said he couldn't say. The county's site plan reviewers are giving him a hard time about "waivers" and the plan might have to be reworked. Mike said the county wants the Park Authority to rip out the four-foot sidewalk along Monument Drive on the north edge of the park, move the retaining wall back one foot, and then widen the sidewalk to five feet. They also want the parking area paved with asphalt while the site plan calls for a "low impact development" (LID) surface of permeable gravel.

Mike has applied for waivers for both the sidewalk and the parking area, but says this is time consuming and costing money. The retaining wall could be moved. It's about 30 inches from the lot line on the east end of the monument lot and five feet from the lot line on the west end. Mike talked about the Public Facilities Manual (PFM) causing all the trouble. I refrained from telling Mike that he had used the same PFM last year to try to justify a ten-foot wide cleared area for the handicapped trail through the wooded part of the lot. He said nothing then about the PFM causing trouble nor did he apply for a waiver.

When I asked for a full set of site plans, Mike was reluctant, but several days later did send me a full set. One of the first things I noticed was that they had realigned the handicapped trail to pass the front of the Union monument. This was an issue a year ago when the plan showed the trail passing behind the monument. It's good to see that the engineer was able to work out the grade problem and make this happen.

I then noticed that the zigzag fence, running past the rocks and the K/S monuments, is not aligned correctly and passes on the wrong side of the quartz stone. Also, the protective fence enclosure around Ballard's rock pile is much too large. It measures 11'3" x 14'3", but the mound of rocks is only 6 feet in diameter. In truth, the protective fence sections shown on the detailed plan are entirely too imposing for this site. It's obvious that we can't recreate the 1921 photographic view with these large rectangular fence enclosures in the way. It could be that we'll have to find another solution to safeguard Ballard's marker stones. There's more work ahead on this. Stay tuned.

[Note about the sidewalk: I went to the park and looked at the situation. Moving the wall is unnecessary. There's a 16-21 inch grass strip between the walk and the curb. They can widen the walk in the other direction.]

MARCHING ORDERS



TREVELIAN STATION BATTLE- FIELD TOUR— LOUISA COUNTY, VA SATURDAY, 21 APRIL 2007

CARPOOL ASSEMBLY POINT: Parking lot of Centreville Regional Library

CARPOOL ASSEMBLY TIME: 7:25 AM

DESTINATION ARRIVAL TIME: 9:12 AM

TOUR ASSEMBLY POINT: McDonald's restaurant in downtown Louisa

TOUR LENGTH: 9:30 AM – 3:20 PM

INITIAL TOUR STOP: Louisa County Court House / Confederate Monument then short walk across West Main St. to Louisa RR station.

LUNCH: McDonald's / nearby fast food restaurants or brown bag in town of Louisa.

LAST TOUR STOP (Subject to change): Intersection of unnamed road and US 33 located northwest of Trevilians Station and Trevilians Elementary School. Site is just beyond the western edge of the battlefield. NOTE: This stop is on the way to Gordonsville and the route back to Centreville.

TOUR GUIDES: John McAnaw and John Pearson

INFORMATION PROVIDED: All drivers will be provided route maps to and from the battlefield. All participants will be given maps of the battlefield including all tour stops. Additionally everyone will be given written descriptions of what transpired at each location.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Bring water, energy food, sunscreen and insect repellent. Sturdy footwear recommended.

DEGREE OF EXERTION: Light to low moderate

IN EVENT OF VERY INCLEMENT WEATHER: Contact John McAnaw or check the BRCWRT website.

MORE INFORMATION: Contact John McAnaw at 703-978-3371

BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

The Stone Wall

P.O. Box 2147

Centreville, VA 20122

2007 Bull Run Civil War Round Table — MEMBERSHIP FORM

We are delighted that you are interested in joining our organization and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting and at our upcoming events!

Annual dues are:

Individual—\$15.00. Family—\$25.00. Student (age 22 and under)—\$10.00.

Make checks payable to: BRCWRT (Bull Run Civil War Round Table). This form may be given to the President or Treasurer at the General Membership meeting. Or mail it to:

Mark Knowles, Treasurer

169 Applegate Drive

Sterling, VA 20164

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____

PHONE_____EMAIL_____