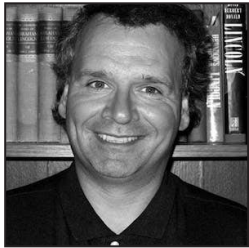


2021 – A Season of Author-led Battlefield Tours

Chuck Maurer

The Kernstown Battlefield Association was blessed throughout our 2021 season with five excellent and entertaining author-led battlefield tours. Beginning on March 27, Gary Ecelbarger, author of *“We Are In For It!”*, the principal book describing the First Battle of Kernstown, led a group of 45 on an all-day tour of battle sites located on our battlefield, Sandy Ridge, and Rose Hill Park. Gary’s tour was loaded with personal details of the soldiers and officers who fought in this battle, helping to immerse visitors in what it must have been like to participate in the battle.



Gary Ecelbarger

The highlight of this tour was Gary’s first-time-ever tour stop on Sandy Ridge where he described where Captain John Waters located his Confederate artillery battery. This was the focus of the assault by the Union’s 84th Pennsylvania Infantry into the teeth of this battery and the subsequent cross-fire from the Confederate defense consisting of the 21st Virginia Infantry and the 1st Virginia Battalion. Gary explained that this tour stop was where Colonel William Gray Murray, Commanding the 84th, was killed in this assault. At this point in the war, he was the highest-ranking soldier from Pennsylvania killed in action.



Jerry Holsworth

In June, Jerry Holsworth, noted author of several books on the history of Winchester in the Civil War, led a group of 15 on a tour of sites on our property where battle actions occurred as part of the Second Battle of Winchester. Jerry’s tour, as always, was quite entertaining – he provided not only the strategic military and political objectives behind the Confederates’ decision to invade the North, but included color commentary on the local social attitudes in Winchester and the lower Shenandoah Valley that impacted the war.

Next, on July 24th, Scott Patchan, author of *“Shenandoah Summer”*, the comprehensive reference on the 1864 Valley Campaign, led a group of 24 on a tour of Second Kernstown battle sites on our property. Beginning at the top of Pritchard’s Hill, then moving south and circling our

southern field, Scott described the Union and Confederate command decisions and related maneuvers in detailed and easy to understand terms. He explained that Union Commander Gen. George Crook ordered his army forward, as a large fish, to eat up the Confederates whom he thought of as no larger than a minnow, only to have his army eaten by the Confederate army, which in fact was as large as a whale.



Scott Patchan

Scott ended his tour at the stone wall running along our entrance road. Here he told the solemn story of how Colonel James Mulligan was mortally wounded as he rallied his men to defend against the Confederate assault. And how his aide and brother-in-law, Lieutenant James Nugent, was killed alongside him. And how Colonel Mulligan’s wife Marian, upon learning of her husband’s wounding, travelled cross-country from Cumberland, MD through Confederate lines to see him, only to arrive too late, as he had died from his wounds the prior day. These kinds of stories bring a very real and personal touch to our tours.

Towards the end of our season, on September 25, Gary Ecelbarger returned to lead a tour of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation’s *“Gathering of the Guard”* to battle sites from the First Battle of Kernstown. The tour began on Pritchard’s Hill, then moved to our south fields where the Confederate assault, led by Colonel Samuel Fulkerson and supported by General Richard Garnett, attempted to turn the flank of the Union batteries on Pritchard’s Hill. The group then over to Sandy Ridge to describe the Confederate artillery locations and the Union Army’s counterattack that led to the tactical defeat of General Stonewall Jackson in this battle.



Dr. James McPherson

Winding up the season, on November 5, Dr. James McPherson, as part of his four-day bus tour of General Stonewall Jackson’s 1862 Valley Campaign, led 96 members from the 1972 class of Princeton University on a tour atop Pritchard’s Hill. McPherson is a Princeton Professor Emeritus and author of many books on the Civil War, including *“Battle Cry of Freedom.”* ■



from Gary Sheppard ... The President's Corner

After facing a short and gloomy 2020 Season because of the pandemic, normalcy returned in 2021, and activity on the Kernstown Battlefield and Farm (KB&F) flourished. Your Board of Directors and Volunteers worked extremely hard on projects to better interpret our 286 year old history, the events that occurred over those years, and to maintain the property.

Capital projects addressed this season –

Through your dedicated donations, nine of the badly damaged original window sills on the 1854 Pritchard House were replaced. And several of our CREP (conservation) fields



Before restoration

were prepped to remove non-native plants, then seeded with oats, a native plant, to encourage a better wildlife habitat.



After restoration

During March, the Pritchard Family Cemetery was mapped using ground penetrating radar (GPR). Thinking we had 12 gravesites, the GPR identified 14, two of which were smaller than the others. A full tombstone from 1797 was recovered along with two pieces of other stones. Further restoration of the cemetery is planned.

A new historical sign was created by Gary Crawford for the original Barn that once stood to the west of the Visitor's Center. And in partnership with the Sons and Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, an historical sign detailing the action of the 12th West Virginia during Second Kernstown was created and installed near the existing barn. Two other important signs are in the works. One summarizes slavery on the farm over a thirty year period and the second details the agricultural business on this property.

Through a generous donation from the Pettus Family, new signage has been created, and is awaiting delivery marking the trail of the Fulkerson Assault during First Kernstown. During our tours, we had been using a parallel path for this assault. Once the original path taken by the Confederate Regiment led by Colonel Samuel Fulkerson was identified, we mowed this path and it is now well maintained. It is an eerie feeling walking this path, watching Pritchards Hill rise into view, just like what would have been seen by the Confederate soldiers facing the 16 Union pieces of artillery on that hill.

During the hottest month of the summer, a mason was hired to re-point the exterior and interior of the founda-



Excellent work done on the interior and exterior of the Pritchard cabin.

tion of the Pritchard Cabin, making friends with the resident black snake. By securing the foundation, we'll be able to address the upper level for renovation.

The Hoge Run deforestation project was recently completed. This was an expensive project in which the non-native vegetation was removed along Hoge Run from Pritchard Lane south to the Opequon Presbyterian Church by Timber Works of Front Royal, VA, using a massive mulching machine. This opened the area to more closely resemble its appearance during the Second Battle of Kernstown.



This mulching machine tore up unwanted vegetation at an astonishing rate.

In March, Gary Ecelbarger led a group for the First Battle of Kernstown. In June, Jerry Holsworth conducted his tour for the Second Battle of Winchester which began across our property. In July, Scott Patchan gave a new version of his tour for the Second Battle of Kernstown. All of these tours were well attended and enthusiastically received. You'll see more on these tours on Page 1.

Partnerships continued and flourished during the 2021 season.

For his Eagle Scout Project, a kiosk was built by Ryan Coffelt near the Conference Center. We plan to place a nice trail map in this kiosk showing locations and trails on the battlefield to visit and hike. We received a generous donation of equipment from Will Sperow to enhance the security of our property and buildings. Two of our Volunteer members, Susi Weston and Bru Randall, opened a Field Hospital in the Pritchard House for the full season. This addition was well received by the public as being very informative.



Ryan Coffelt's kiosk project.

Sports partnerships grew again. Shenandoah University hosted its Harrier Invitational Cross-country Race which attracted 26 college teams. John Handley High School held a dual meet, a tri-meet, and the Judges Invitational with 36 schools and 570 runners. Recently, Frederick County Parks & Rec hosted the Battlefield Half-Marathon with its start and finish near the Mulligan sign on Pritchard's Lane. All of these events expose people to the KB&F who may not otherwise have known of our existence.

Twice monthly The National Park Service alternated "1862 in a Box" and "1864 in a Box." very informative presentations of the First and Second Battles of Kernstown. The Harpers Ferry Civil War Round Table held their meeting on the battlefield followed by a tour led by our Larry Turner. Larry and Chuck Maurer traveled to LaValle, MD, giving a presentation about the Kernstown battles to the Cumberland CWRT.

President's Corner continued from page 2...

The Princeton Class of 1972 organized a four-day tour of Jackson's Valley Campaign. First stop was the Kernstown Battlefield. They had 96 in their group and their tour guide was the famed author Dr. James M. McPherson. They were amazed at the history that exists on our property and the restoration efforts by our volunteers. Again, more great exposure for the

Kernstown Battlefield & Farm.

I'll stop here. As you can see, we were very busy during the season. We have done our best to improve and protect the property, expand our visibility, and to present our history to the public in a factual and diverse manner. Hopefully, you also think we have met these goals. ■

Gary Sheppard

LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED?

Gary Sheppard, KBA President

As you read this newsletter, I hope you jump up, if you can, and say – "This is exciting! How can I get involved?" The answer is simple. In two ways – Volunteer and/or Donate. Let me elaborate.

We always need Volunteers and Docents. There are a lot of projects on which we could use assistance. For example, next spring we'll need to do a lot of exterior painting of buildings. The Cemetery Restoration Project could use help. And, we could always use personable people during the season to staff the Visitor Center and give tours. We'll even train you. Contact us through our website or call and leave a message on voicemail. Let us know your interest and capability so you can be directed to the appropriate project manager or committee chair.

Donations beyond your membership are always welcomed, and they can be designated to a specific project. Here is a list of our most urgent projects:

Pritchard House Shutters: We need to start replacing shutters on the Pritchard House. Last estimate was about \$2000 per set of shutters and we have at least 10 sets to replace. Doing the math, that totals \$20,000.

Pritchard House Shutter Project Goal: \$20,000

Pritchard Cabin: Another big project will be restoring the Pritchard Cabin. We'll be discussing how to proceed over the winter months, but know this will be costly. This cabin was the target of arsonists in 2000 and, although structurally still sound, will take some specialized work to remove the charred wood and replace some beams. Once this preliminary restoration work is completed, we can open the building to the public.

Pritchard Cabin Project Goal: \$15,000

Wildflowers: Our CREP Program necessitates that we buy native plant seed for planting the fields. We would like to add wildflower seed to the buckwheat seed to attract butterflies and birds, creating a better habitat.

Wildflower Donation Goal: \$3000 for buckwheat and wildflower seed.

There are plenty of ways for you to help preserve this wonderful property and a piece of our history. You've been given suggestions as to how you can contribute. Please contact us if you need more information or have questions.

~ Thanks for your consideration ~

The Pritchard House in Art

IMAGES THROUGH THE YEARS

Steve Vaughn

Since it was finished in 1854, the Pritchard house has been the subject of many artists and images.

The first known image was a drawing done in August of 1864 by sketch artist James Taylor. This image differs from the others in that it is the only one depicting the inside of the Pritchard house. It shows Helen and Samuel Pritchard speaking with others in their second floor dining room. It is also unusual for James Taylor. In his book "With Sheridan Up the Shenandoah Valley in 1864," published in 1890, there are only a handful of the approximately 200 images showing the interior of the buildings. The James Taylor Sketch Book was never reprinted and a moderately used copy can occasionally be found for around \$350 at high-end used book stores like Blue Plate Books in Winchester.



1864 sketch by James Taylor in the Pritchard dining room

The next image in time sequence is by Eugene B. Smith of Winchester. His gallery is prominent and open for business on the Winchester Walking Mall. In the 1990s, artist Smith painted numerous scenes around the Pritchard farm. His image from atop Pritchard's hill captures not only the Pritchard house but also the other modern existing buildings and the landscape looking south. In addition, he has an image from the front of the house showing the stone wall and a wooden gate by the "bee tree." The third image is from the south side of the wheelwright shop and provides some historical information on the wheelwright shop before the 2000 fire. If you're in the Winchester area, drop by his gallery and have look.



Eugene B. Smith's 1995 image of the Pritchard House

One of the favorites of visitors to the Battlefield is John Paul Strain's 2012 "Kings of Kernstown" which depicts the aftermath of the Second Battle of Kernstown. The stone wall, walnut tree-lined lane and the Pritchard house are featured prominently in this life-like painting. This print has become the signature image of the battlefield showing it as it was in 1864 and how little it has changed over the years. Signed original prints are available at King James Gallery in Winchester.



John Paul Strain's 2012 "Kings of Kernstown"

The latest image is by Virginia artist P. Buckley Moss. Moss fans, and there are many, will appreciate her unique style depicting the Pritchard house with a recent snowfall and a horse drawn sleigh outside. Prints are also available at King James Gallery in Winchester.

Last but not least, we have an image painted by our good neighbor and friend at our front gate, Mr. Don Sheets. Painted in 2005 it depicts the Grim barn/silo and the Solomon Pritchard house to the south. On your next visit, wave and say hi to Don when you see him in his yard.



A view of the farm by artist Don Sheets

Those who pay close attention at the battlefield will note that all of these images are on prominent display in various places in our buildings. Stop by and have a look at this historic art the next time you visit. ■



By artist P. Buckley Moss

In the News ...

2021 Volunteers of the Year

Gary Sheppard, KBA President

This year, I had the privilege and honor of identifying and presenting the 2021 President's Volunteer Awards. This was a very difficult decision since we have a lot of dedicated volunteers who donate large chunks of their time for the betterment of the Kernstown Battlefield and Farm. However, in keeping with tradition, a decision had to be made and the following were selected to receive these awards.



John Hess: In his first year as a Volunteer, John has stepped up to the plate. He is former military and has recently moved to the area with his family. Because of his background and interest, he worked on updating the merchandise in the Visitor's Center ordering a wider variety of books for sale and new

styles of clothing with the Kernstown Battlefield logo. The sales were so successful he had to re-order certain items mid-season and the merchandise realized a profit of over \$4000. John also jumped in as Docent, giving tours of our property and buildings. John was elected to the KBA Board of Directors at our annual meeting this year.



Karen Rawls: A neighbor of the battlefield, Karen enjoys history and wanted to contribute. She found she really loves the zero-turn mower. You can see her dedicated work and effort all around the Pritchard House. She does a great job. When the mower needed parts or maintenance, she was always there to assist. Karen is quite

mechanically inclined and I am very envious of her knowledge.



Stephen Vaughn: A former Board Member and KBA President, Steve can always be found somewhere on the property. He's like a middle linebacker with no specific assignment except to go to the ball. He is part of the mowing team and fills in anywhere at any time we need help. He can especially be

found in the Visitor's Center on both days of a weekend. He is very good at using technology and has shared his knowledge with all of us.

Congratulations to these three special volunteers for 2021. Thank you, and all of our volunteers, for your time and effort during the 2021 Season.

12th West Virginia Interpretive Sign Dedication

Larry Turner



On Saturday, October 30, the Elizabeth Van Lew Detached Tent 1 of the Daughters of Union Civil War Veterans, together with the Department of the Chesapeake Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, held a dedication ceremony honoring the battle actions of the Union's 12th West Virginia Infantry on Sandy Ridge during the 2nd Battle of Winchester and on the fields west of the large white barn during the 2nd Battle of Kernstown. The members of Detached Tent 1 and their parent organization provided the funds for crafting the interpretive sign panel and fabricating its pedestal.

The story depicted on this new interpretive sign honors Private William Allison Fleming of Company F as part of the 12th West Virginia. Several attendees in the dedication party were relatives of Private Fleming, including Karen Lyddane, President of Detached Tent 1, her uncle Howard Fleming and her mother, Elizabeth Fleming Lewis, who served as a nurse during World War II in both the European and Pacific theaters and who soon after this dedication celebrated her 101st birthday!

An honor guard posted the national colors and fired a gun salute honoring Private Fleming and the 12th West Virginia. This new interpretive sign adds personal and operational details (including a letter Private Fleming wrote home) to the stories we tell to visitors. ■

KBA MEMBERSHIP

The KBA is an all-volunteer non-profit organization. We rely solely on your membership dues and donations to improve, maintain and operate the Kernstown Battlefield. If your membership has expired, please consider renewing at this time. If you are not a member, please consider joining. Additional contributions beyond the \$25 annual membership fee are greatly appreciated. Use the enclosed remittance envelope to donate or go to our website at www.kernstownbattle.org.

The KBA is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation ~ Contributions are tax-deductible.

The Pritchard Family Cemetery Continues Giving Up Its Secrets

Chuck Maurer



Above: The Pritchard cemetery with the recently installed antique wrought iron fencing donated by the family of Dr. David Powers.

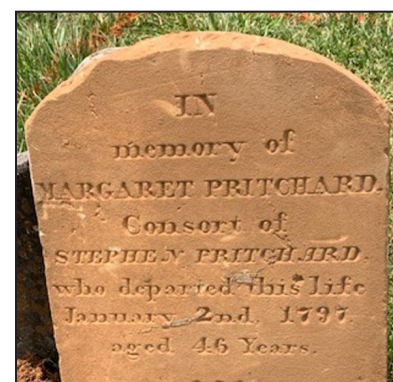
As covered in our spring newsletter, we have been making a concerted effort to learn more about the Pritchard family cemetery as it represents an important part of the history of our property. Utilizing family genealogy records and other sources, we have narrowed down the likely burials, all spanning between 1758 and 1872. The following list identifies ten of the twelve adults and one of the two infant burials found by the ground penetrating radar survey effort last spring.

| Name | Burial (Age) | Family Relation |
|----------------------------|----------------|--|
| Rees Pritchard | 1758 (~48-50) | Patriarch of the Kernstown Pritchards |
| Eleanor Pritchard | After 1765 (?) | Wife of Rees Pritchard |
| John Evans | After 1765 (?) | Step-son of Rees Pritchard |
| Margaret "Peggy" Pritchard | 1797 (46) | Wife of Stephen Pritchard Sr. |
| Stephen Pritchard Sr. | 1818 (~73) | Son of Rees Pritchard |
| Margaret Pritchard | 1819 (47) | Unmarried sister of Stephen Pritchard Sr. |
| Susan Baldwin | 1836 (58) | Married sister of Stephen Pritchard Sr.; third wife of Cornelius Baldwin |
| Stephen Pritchard Jr. | 1858 (~72) | Son of Stephen Pritchard Sr. |
| Judith Pritchard | 1855 (70) | Unmarried sister of Stephen Pritchard Jr. |
| Margaret Pritchard | 1864 (~2) | Granddaughter of Stephen Pritchard Jr. |
| Mary Pritchard | 1872 (76) | Wife of Stephen Pritchard Jr. |

The second major new story that came from our research relates to Margaret (Peggy) Pritchard’s headstone found intact earlier this year. We now have a logical explanation of why she is described on the headstone as Stephen Sr.’s consort, not his wife.

Again, utilizing both family records and other historical records, it appears the use of the term consort instead of wife on this headstone was a deliberate decision of her surviving husband, Stephen. We learned that Stephen was indicted in 1697 for “marrying and cohabitating with Margaret Kenner, sister to his former wife, contrary to law.” Further research confirms English ecclesiastical law at the time (Virginia was still a colony of Great Britain) forbade marrying anyone of close relation, including your deceased wife’s sister.

The future plan for cemetery historical interpretation includes signage with a summary of the cemetery history along with two supplemental phone tours telling the story of why Susan Baldwin is buried in the family cemetery rather with her husband in Mount Hebron Cemetery and the Margaret “Peggy” Pritchard consort story. ■



Peggy’s headstone

A Runners Paradise ... Andrew Marrocco

During the autumn of 2021, Kernstown Battlefield continued to be the home of three marquee running events in the Shenandoah Valley. The battlefield is the home cross country venue for both Handley High School and Shenandoah University, while also serving as the start and finish area for the Frederick County Battlefield Half Marathon.

Shenandoah University, the primary care taker of the cross country trails at Kernstown Battlefield, hosted the 13th Annual Hornet Harrier Invitational on September 24th. The annual event brought 26 teams from around the east coast, with a total of 335 athletes registered. There was also an “open” 2 mile race to start the morning off for members of the community, SU alumni, and family members of the college athletes. The highlight of the morning was SU’s Erin Atkinson winning the women’s 6,000 meter championship race in 24 minutes 21 seconds, and leading SU’s women to the team title. KBA Board of Directors member Andrew Marrocco also heads the track & field and cross country programs for Shenandoah University.

Next on the Kernstown Battlefield running schedule was the Handley High School Judges Classic. Handley’s

annual event brought 36 teams from the northern Virginia and Shenandoah Valley region with a total of 570 high school runners involved. The JHHS Judges top runner came from the boys side, where senior Nicolo Schianchi finished 4th overall in the 5,000 meter race in 16 minutes 50 seconds.



The final running event of the 2021 season came from Frederick County Parks & Rec’s Battlefield Half Marathon. In its 6th edition, this year’s race had a great return after the 2020 COVID hiatus with 204 finishers in the full 13.1 mile race, and an additional 42 teams in the 4-person and 2-person relays. The top local finisher was Mike Cahak from Winchester in 1 hour 22 minutes in 11th place on the men’s side, and Katie Borland, also from Winchester in 1 hour 32 minutes from the women’s race in 20th place.

For the 2022 calendar, Shenandoah University will host the SU Twilight on September 1st, the 14th Annual Hornet Harrier Invitational on September 24th, and will serve as the host site of the Old Dominion Athletic Conference Championships on October 29th. FCPR’s Battlefield Half Marathon hosts on November 5th. John Handley High School Athletics has yet to set the 2022 schedule. ■

Dating the Pritchard Cabin

Chuck Maurer



1991 painting of Pritchard Cabin by artist Eugene B. Smith

At its November meeting, the KBA Board of Directors approved funding for the log dating service of the Pritchard cabin. The log core dating process, properly referred to as Dendrochronology, is the scientific method of

dating tree rings (also called growth rings) to the exact year they were formed. In general, this dating technique can very accurately estimate the date the log was harvested, but not necessarily the date of the building itself. In any case, this service should give us a more accurate estimate of when the Pritchard cabin was constructed, or at least when the logs were cut.

To get this ball rolling (drill turning?) we invited Shawn Cockrell of Historic Timbers Dendrochronology, LLC to conduct a no-cost preliminary assessment on the Pritchard cabin back in September. The good news from this assessment was that the fire damage would not prevent him from obtaining sufficient core samples. He also informed us the V-style notching technique used in the



V-style notched log

construction was very common in Eastern Pennsylvania where the Pritchards came from and in the Valley through the mid-19th century.

After the Board’s approval to proceed, we were able to quickly arrange for Shawn to complete the core sample drilling. During a two-day span he marked, drilled and filled 16 samples from different logs located across various parts the structure.

The 17th and final sample was drilled by KBA President, Gary Sheppard. Our plan is to include this final core sample, along with a small antique medicine bottle Shawn found hidden in one of the logs, in a future display on the cabin’s history.



Gary Sheppard drilling final core

Shawn also found evidence that at least some of the building materials in the cabin were re-purposed from other structures. Could we have a “franken cabin” on our hands?

Stay tuned for the results! ■



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Weddings and Special Events ...

Steve Chesley



Wedding on the front lawn of the Pritchard House



Reception in the Artillery Building

When looking for a location for your special event, whether it be a wedding, reunion, meeting, or presentation, don't forget our wonderful property. The Kernstown Battlefield has numerous spectacular outdoor locations with great views which are sure to impress your guests.

We also have a conference room ideal for meetings and presentations, as well as a much larger indoor facility ideal for parties and receptions.

For any event, just call our main number, leave a message and someone will get back to you. We'd love to give you a tour of our facilities and work with you as you plan that special event.