

Fulkerson's Assault Path

Battle of First Kernstown

by Gary Sheppard

On March 23, 1862, Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson ordered Colonel Samuel Fulkerson to move the 37th Virginia and 23rd Virginia Regiments out of Barton's Woods near Kernstown to assault Pritchard's Hill on the Pritchard Farm and capture the Union artillery. Fulkerson moved out for the half mile assault on the hill. Leaving the woods, they were unable to see the artillery because of the terrain. However, they were certainly observed by Union Colonel Nathan Kimball and his artillery, and the formation was targeted.

Jackson then sent General Richard Garnett and his regiment to support Fulkerson. Garnett, the immediate superior to Fulkerson, was not told of Fulkerson's orders, a violation of command protocol. Fulkerson got to within several hundred yards of Pritchard's Hill, saw the gunners loading their cannons with canister, and the Union infantry laying on the hill. In consultation with Garnett, both decided that assaulting the hill would cost excessive lives and not be successful. They turned west to Sandy Ridge and eventually north to Rose Hill where the Battle of 1st Kernstown raged until about 6pm when the Confederates ran out of ammunition; and then the retreat was on.

For several years, the KBA used the mowed running/trail path to tell the story of the Garnett-Fulkerson assault. Two years ago, during a conversation with Gary Ecelbarger, author of "We're In For It", he pointed out that the actual path of Fulkerson was about 100 yards to the west along a now existing wood line. This was the same assault path later used by General Stephen Ramseur as he led his division out of the same woods to exploit the gap in the Union line during the Battle of 2nd



Fulkerson's Assault Path walking trail after clearing brush and trees. Pritchard's Hill rises behind and to the right of the current barn.

Kernstown. So, we thought – why not use the actual assault path to tell the stories. That first year, the path was bush hogged and mowed weekly until we had a nice safe path for the public to walk.

Just off Apple Valley Road, which borders our southern fields, an Eagle Scout built a viewing platform with Trex-donated products on the approximate spot where Jackson stood to order the assault by Fulkerson and Garnett. Visitors can drive to the Jackson Lookout, stand on the same spot with Jackson, read the historical signs in place, and view the assault path to Pritchard's Hill. Thanks to the Pettus Family of Richmond, their generosity enabled us to create three historical signs along the path to tell this story. This path is accessed from the main Kernstown Battlefield property. You, too, can experience what the distant cousins of the Pettus Family experienced as they made this assault. It's a beautiful walk and an opportunity to experience a piece of history.

On Saturday, November 19th, the KBA held a Work Day. Board members, volunteers, and Boy Scouts from Troop 3, worked at three locations. One was at the north end of the Fulkerson Assault Path clearing non-native trees and shrubs for a much better view of Pritchard's Hill about 600 yards away. David Wingenbach wielded a mean chain saw and Eric Dellinger, Scoutmaster, and two scouts cleared out the downed limbs and shrubs. Additional cleanup along the fence line will continue as we get closer to spring.

Come out, walk a path of history, and enjoy the surroundings and the view. ■



Jackson's Lookout viewing platform, an Eagle Scout project. Pritchard's Hill rises in the background.



from Gary Sheppard ...

The President's Corner

Our 2022 Season started early and has been a whirlwind of activity since. In January, the structural logs of the Pritchard Cabin were dated to a 1794 time frame. This building had been the target of arsonists in October 2000, and has been boarded up to protect what remains of the original structure. Right now we have researchers looking into the history of this cabin and we look forward to their report.



Above: The 1790s cabin was torched on October 30, 2000. Right: The cabin has been cacooned since the fire. Repointing the lower level is complete.



The foundation was repointed last summer and now we'll be looking for ways to renovate the upper floors so we can open

this wonderful building to the public. This project will take substantial funding.

Work continued on the Pritchard Family Cemetery with care taken to minimize soil erosion with vinca planted as a historical ground cover. The Fulkerson Assault Path of 1st Kernstown opened with three new historical signs. You can now take a walk through history on the actual path of the Confederate regiments as they stepped out of Barton's Woods to assault Pritchard's Hill.

We were gifted a surry carriage and a doctor's carriage which we display in the Artillery Building. These are beautiful examples of the type of transportation that would have been seen on the farm in the 1800s.

The walls of the first floor rooms of the Pritchard House were re-plastered and painted. The Field Hospital on the lower floor was very popular this year. The presentation was expanded to include natural medicines being used during the time of the Civil War. Eight acres of our conservation fields (CREP) were seeded with oats, buckwheat, a mixture of wildflowers, and sunflowers. We partnered with a group that put up four bird boxes to encourage the return of the American Kestrel. And, we hosted three author-led battle



Pictured at left is the doctor's carriage and on the right is the surry. Both were gifted to the KBA and are on display in the Artillery Building.

tours this season with Gary Ecelbarger (1st Kernstown), Jerry Holsworth (2nd Winchester), and Scott Patchan (2nd Kernstown). A new event was added this year – "Sunset on the Battlefield" – the life of the Pritchard Family during the three Civil War battles surrounding their house. Someone may have just heard a cannon fired off during the tour.

We hosted two weddings. Our first in the barn and the second in the area of our Memorial Garden. Both went off perfectly, including nice weather. This year we initiated an email newsletter, Constant Contact, to regularly inform our membership of happenings on the property and to keep you involved with events at the battlefield. Over the summer, we were hit by several severe wind storms that took down a lot of trees, many damaged earlier by lantern flies. Thankfully, we have a lot of Board Members who enjoy using their chain saws.

John Handley High School held a tri-meet cross country race, but sadly the later Judges Classic Invitational had to be canceled due to a hurricane. Shenandoah University also held cross country meets with their Twilight Invitational, Hornet Harrier Invitational, and ODAC Conference Championship. It was a lot of fun firing our Mountain Howitzer to start each race and the runners very



The starting line for the ODAC cross-country races. Above-right: Firing of the mountain howitzer started each race.

much appreciated racing on historic ground and having that cannon start their races. On November 5th, Frederick County Parks & Recreation hosted the Battlefield Half Marathon.

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Thanks to Volunteers and Scouts for Clearing Hoge Run

by Steve Chesley

On July 24, 1864, Confederate soldiers under General John B. Gordon repulsed Union Colonel James Mulligan's troops crossing the fields toward the Opequon Presbyterian Church from the stone wall along Pritchard's Lane. Then, as the Union soldiers took cover behind the stone wall, a group of Georgia sharpshooters gathered in the dry creek bed



The scouts of Troop 3.

about 100 yards away, known as Hoge Run, and took careful aim at the Union soldiers behind the wall inflicting many casualties.

One of those casualties was Colonel James Mulligan who suffered mortal wounds while he was on horseback trying to get his men into an organized retreat back over Pritchard's Hill. Colonel Mulligan died in the Pritchard House two days after the battle. This was part of the Battle of 2nd Kernstown.



Volunteers and scouts hauling away debris from the creekbed.

Just two years ago, Hoge Run was so overrun with trees, brush and vines, you could not even see into it as you stood on the bridge over the run. Beginning last winter, volunteers began cutting back some of the brush and cleaning out the creek which was so full of natural debris that the water could not even flow through it. A company was hired last year to mulch a lot of the trees along Hoge Run.

Work went into high gear in early November this year when volunteers manning chain saws really went to work on trees growing along and in the banks of the run. Due to all the clearing, there were four or five very large piles of tree trunks and limbs. We want to thank the Boy Scouts from Troop 3 who volunteered on Saturday, November 19th, and spent a large chunk of the day loading that debris onto trailers.

For the first time in years, there is now a clear view of Hoge Run and a clear view across the Confederate assault field from Pritchard's Lane to the Opequon Presbyterian Church.

Thanks to all the Kernstown Battlefield volunteers, Scoutmaster Eric Dellinger and his assistants, and the Boy Scouts of Troop 3 for their hard work. Special recognition goes out to volunteers Rich Walsh, Dan Heim, Jim Cutler, Bru Randall, Steve Vaughn, Steve Cantu, Steve Chesley and Charlie Hagan. ■

The President's Corner....continued

The race started and ended on Pritchard's Lane at the stone wall. We had a rainbow that day, over 250 runners competed, and the howitzer was, once again, used to start the race.

Over the weekend of November 18th, Boy Scout Troop 3 had their winter campout around the barn area and used the run-in shed for their kitchen. It was very cold at night, but they stuck to it like true scouts. In return for this campout opportunity, the scouts got with our board members and volunteers for work projects over a four hour period. We were divided into three groups and tackled work along Hoge Run, Fulkerson Assault Path, and the north end fence line clearing trees and brush. A lot was accomplished during those four hours. Later that evening, the scouts



The Boy Scouts pitched their tents around the barn.

cooked dinner for their parents, enjoying the meal in the barn.

This is your KBA at work, and as you see, we are very busy. To maintain this wonderful

property, keep it open to the public, and tell its rich history, we need your continued financial support.

When in the area, please visit whenever our gates are open and keep watching our website for our upcoming 2023 season events – www.kernstownbattle.org, ■

A Visit from Pritchard Family Relatives

by Larry Turner

On July 25, 2022, the Kernstown Battlefield Association (KBA) was honored to host a visit by relatives of the Frederick Carter Pritchard, Jr. family. Visitors included (from left to right in the photo) Alan and Judy (Risser) Pritchard, Judy Pritchard (Najar), Jane Pritchard, Sue Pritchard (Hatcher), and their KBA tour guide, Larry Turner. Jane, Alan, Judy (Najar), and Sue are brothers and sisters. Alan and Judy (Risser) arrived from Charlotte, NC., Sue Pritchard (Hatcher) from Huntington, WV, Judy Pritchard (Najar) from Princeton, WV, and Jane Pritchard from Santa Rosa, CA.

The group discussed their family tree and connections with Samuel Reese Pritchard who built the Pritchard House in 1854 and lived in it with his family during the Civil War.

The family lineage is as follows:

Father – Frederick Carter Pritchard, Jr.

Grandfather – Frederick Carter Pritchard, Sr.

Great-grandfather – Stephen Cornelius Pritchard III
(brother of Samuel Reese Pritchard)

Great-great-grandfather – Stephen Cornelius Pritchard, Jr.
(brother of Reese Pritchard III)

Great-great-great grandfather – Stephen Cornelius Pritchard, Sr.
(son of Rees Pritchard Jr. who originally purchased the Kernstown farm from the Hoge family)

The family toured all three levels of the Pritchard House, discussing its construction, protocols of serving meals and tea in the large dining room and parlor, and where guests would stop their buggies at the front steps to enter the the second level, the main floor of the house, .

We showed them the ground penetrating radar results that found the limits of the home's foundation that served as an extension of the larger house and discussed where the kitchen might have been, and possibly where Samuel Reese Pritchard and his family took cover from the three battles fought on and around the farm.

We showed them the improvements the Grim family made (electricity, hot water heat, bathroom, septic tank, and gravity fed water and cisterns), and how subsequently the James Burton Family had used the house with their large family. The group was extremely interested in how the house was constructed, especially the plastering, the pockets in the bricks



for floor joists, and the electrical wiring chiseled into the walls. We also told some ghost stories about the third floor northeast bedroom.

We took them to the cemetery and to the top of Pritchard's Hill. They were elated at the detail on the cemetery sign and knew well many of the names. Likewise, they were extremely excited to view the excavated headstones now residing in the Visitor Center.

From the top of the Pritchard's Hill, we explained the effect the battles of 1st and 2nd Kernstown, and 2nd Winchester had on the family. This farm just happened to be key terrain with its views to the Blue Ridge Mountain gaps and the Valley Pike, its direct line of sight to Massanutten Mountain and the Confederate signal station there; and, as the hill is the beginning of a ridge that runs all the way to downtown Winchester, the ability for the Union to run semaphore signals along it for command purposes.

In the Conference Center, the group looked at the Pritchard family artifacts in the glass case, and were quite interested in Helen Pritchard's songbook. We also told the ghost story of how the music box started playing on its own the day we received it. We mentioned James Burton's desk and trunk and when they were made, and told them we have some documentation that the desk was made in the 1880s. These items resided in the house when Burton owned the farm in the 1890s.

To further honor the legacy of the Pritchard Family, the relatives donated to the KBA a Civil War era wallet and contents which belonged to Stephen Pritchard. KBA will work with professional curators to inspect the wallet and its contents to ensure they are properly preserved and displayed. ■

In the News ...

Memorial Arboretum is "digging in"!

by Charlie Hagan

With board approval for a Memorial Arboretum between the barn and Visitor Center now a reality, the gritty work of planning has evolved over several months.

A primary consideration was the cost of large, nursery supplied trees, which typically go for \$300 or more. The Association was instead blessed with a generous gift of smaller oaks, hollies, redbuds and chestnuts from Kyle Rhodes, who was married here on September 24th. These trees were easily planted and will likely be more robust and survivable. Along with two dozen inexpensive fledgling dogwoods, they should be ready for commemoration in just a few years with all of the memorial donations going to KBA.

Thanks to Larry Turner, Steve Chesley, John Doyle, and Daniel Heim for their planning and planting support! ■

President's Volunteers of the Year awards

by Gary Sheppard, President

During our Annual Membership Meeting, it is customary for the President to recognize KBA Volunteers for their outstanding contributions. This was a very difficult decision to make this year. As you read the articles in this publication, you can see how active and creative our volunteers have been. We have sixteen board members and a very dedicated core of about ten volunteers, all of whom gave of their time and talents to make this a highly successful year. In my opinion, each and every one earned this award.

I narrowed the selections to five individuals. Several of these individuals spent a lot of their time on the property during the week when others weren't around to see their efforts. For this recognition, I had the print of the Pritchard House painted by local artist Eugene B. Smith (Eugene Smith Gallery) framed with a brass plate describing each person's contribution. The five receiving this award and plate inscription were:

– "For your outstanding service and numerous hours throughout the year maintaining the Kernstown Battlefield, the KBA recognizes and honors SCOTT GREGORY";



The KBA Celebrates two Campus Weddings!

by Charlie Hagan

Another milestone in Association history was accomplished this year with two campus weddings! September 24 marked the wedding of Kyle & Sarah Rhodes. Kyle has contributed much to the Association in terms of landscaping projects, and with his generous donation of trees to the new Arboretum. The wedding was our first conducted in the barn and was performed flawlessly!

Three weeks later Alexis Greene, granddaughter of KBA Board member Ray Hess, married Cody Fletcher in a memorable ceremony in the planned Arboretum area, followed by a reception under a huge tent by the Artillery Annex!

Our board is pleased to offer weddings as another Association contribution to the community, although we still have work to do to assure the safety and enjoyment of these celebrations while maintaining our commitment to historical preservation. ■



From left: Chuck Mauer, Scott Gregory, President Gary Sheppard, Steve Vaughn, Steve Chesley and Charles Hagan.

– "For your dedicated service throughout the year volunteering an untold number of hours mowing and staffing the Visitor's Center, the KBA recognizes and honors STEVE VAUGHN";

– "For outstanding service throughout the year managing projects for the Family Cemetery, the Pritchard House, leading tours, and mowing, the KBA recognizes and honors STEVE CHESLEY";

– "For outstanding service throughout the year as Chair of the H&E Committee, enhancing the history of our property and pursuing grant money for funding, the KBA recognizes and honors CHUCK MAURER";

– "For outstanding service throughout the year maintaining our property and for your exceptional "janitorial" services, the KBA recognizes and honors CHARLES HAGAN".

Congratulations to our five recipients and special thanks to all of the board members and volunteers who contributed their time and effort to a very productive and successful year. ■

Pritchard House first floor plastering completed

by Steve Chesley

One of the goals during 2022 was to get the field hospital room in the Pritchard House repaired making it more inviting for our visitors. The room had numerous holes in the ceilings and walls that made it very unsightly and allowed animals to enter, including many black snakes who seemed to have made the walls of the field hospital their summer home.

As reported in our last edition of the *Gazette*, the KBA hired a professional plasterer experienced in restoring older buildings, who began work in late spring and completed work in July. Then volunteers rolled up their sleeves and went to work. Volunteers Susi Weston, Bru Randall, Charlie Hagan and Steve Chesley took up their paint brushes and primed and painted the entire room. The work was completed in late August and the field hospital was open for visitors and closed to the resident (non-venomous) black snakes.



Painters Susi, Steve and Bru.



The field hospital today! The stonework and exposed bricks remain rustic with the new plastering contoured down to the surfaces.

This was one of the many needed projects that were able to be completed thanks to the generous donations from our members and the many visitors we had throughout this past year. Work like this could not be completed without your help.

Please stop by the field hospital when we open in the spring of 2023 and enjoy Susi's excellent presentation on diseases, wounds, and treatments during the Civil War. ■



Program participants atop Pritchard's Hill just before sunset.

Sunset at the Battlefield: A New Kernstown Battlefield Tradition

by Chuck Maurer

A year ago, our Historical and Education Committee chair, Chuck Maurer, proposed a new historical interpretation event for the 2022 season. The idea was to select a significant personal interest story as a basis for a docent led evening program where we'd explore the subject well beyond the level of our regular battlefield or house tours. The subject selected for this year's "Sunset" program was the marriage of Samuel Reese (S.R.) Pritchard and Helen Johnson entitled:

"S.R. and Helen Pritchard: A Mixed (South & North) Marriage in a Turbulent Time."

With the assistance of fellow docents Larry Turner and Jim Cutler, we created a two-hour program that included an introduction to S.R. (from Kernstown) and Helen (from New Jersey) and then followed this couple from their 1858 marriage to S.R.'s death in 1875. The tour included stories told about their life before the war, the times in their home when they hid during three Civil War battles which raged across their farm, and ended at the top of Pritchard's Hill where participants experienced the sunset. The final tour stop was at the family cemetery.

Visit our website in the spring to learn about our 2023 "Sunset" program. We hope to see you there! ■

The Kernstown Battlefield

A premier runners' venue!

by Andrew Marrocco

During the autumn of 2022, 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 Shenandoah University, as well as Handley High School, while also serving as the start and finish area for the Frederick County Parks and Recreation's 'Battlefield Half Marathon'.

Shenandoah University, the primary care taker of the cross country trails at Kernstown Battlefield, hosted three events this fall starting with the SU Twilight, a sunset race on Thursday, September 1st. This event brought 9 teams and 80 athletes to the KBA property, with Shenandoah's women tying for the win in the 3,000-meter race. SU's Erin Atkinson finished 3rd overall.

SU's 14th Annual Hornet Harrier Invitational on September 24th brought 38 teams from around the east coast, with a total of 314 athletes competing. There was also an "open" 3,000-meter race to start the morning off for members of the local community, SU alumni, and family members of the college athletes. The highlight of the morning was SU's Erin Atkinson finishing 2nd overall in the women's 6,000 meter championship race in 23 minutes 40 seconds (a minute faster than her time last season), and leading SU's women to the team Commonwealth title. KBA Board of Directors member Andrew Marrocco 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. Unfortunately, due to Hurricane Ian, Handley was forced to cancel the meet. Ian brought a large amount of fallen trees and damage to the cross country trails and historical trails. Kernstown's volunteers and SU's track and field team did a tremendous job chain-sawing and hauling fallen trees and limbs away to reopen all the trail paths.

On Saturday, October 29th, Shenandoah University hosted the Old Dominion Athletic Conference Cross Country Championships. The ODAC is an all Virginia 14-team private college athletic conference. SU last hosted the ODAC championships in 2018. A course favorite around the league, SU has already been requested to host again in 2025. SU's women finished 3rd overall, to move on to the NCAA South Region Championships, with SU's men finishing 6th.

The final running event of the 2022 season came



SU women begin a race at the "Twilight" cross country event.

from Frederick County Parks & Rec's Battlefield Half Marathon. In it's 7th edition, this year's race had 225 finishers in the full 13.1 mile race, and an additional 32 teams in the 4-person and 2-person relays. The top local finisher came from Kevin Konyar of Winchester in 1 hour 11 minutes to be the overall champion on the men's side, and Kristen Farthing, also from Winchester in 1 hour 35 minutes from the women's race in 10th place overall.

For the 2023 calendar, Shenandoah University will host the SU Twilight on Friday, September 8th, and the 15th Annual Hornet Harrier Invitational on Saturday, September 23rd. FCPR's Battlefield Half Marathon hosts on Saturday, November 7th. John Handley High School Athletics has yet to set the 2023 schedule. ■



The course finishes at the Pritchard House.



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**Happy
Holidays
from
the
Kernstown
Battlefield
Association!**

A message from KBA president Gary Sheppard ...

How You Can Contribute

As you read the articles in this edition of the *Gazette*, you will notice how active the KBA is in preserving this property — its history, its buildings, and the land. We are doing our best to keep this property pristine and to present its accurate history from the time William Hoge purchased 411 acres in 1732, through the many generations of Pritchards, the James Burton family, the Grim generations and now the KBA. We have sixteen board members and a strong core of volunteers who maintain the property, conduct tours, and staff buildings when we are open. We are neither paid nor do we receive compensation in any way.

There are many ways you can contribute. You can volunteer! Volunteering can include staffing the visitor center, conducting tours, or grounds and buildings maintenance. If you enjoy meeting people, if you enjoy history, or if you enjoy just being involved, this is a great opportunity. For inquiries, contact us through our website (www.kernstownbattle.org) or call us at 540-450-7835 (leave a message). A volunteer coordinator will contact you. Training will be provided.

If you live too far away or have physical limitations, you can assist financially. The work being done isn't cheap and requires much funding to maintain historic accuracy. To make your donation, use the enclosed envelope or donate through our website. The KBA is a privately-owned 501(c)3 tax-exempt corporation and financial contributions are tax deductible. We do not receive government subsidies but rely on the generosity of our members and donors.

Donations go into our general operating fund unless you designate your favorite project. Our current special projects include:

1. Pritchard House – General restoration projects are ongoing. Shutters are a current priority.
2. 1790s Pritchard Cabin restoration – a Historic Structures Report is currently in progress to help us decide how to proceed.
3. Repainting farm buildings and metal roofs.

Thank you for supporting the KBA and the work being done to preserve the Kernstown Battlefield.