



The Board of Directors of  
Friends of Wilderness Battlefield

Host the 2021

***Annual Membership Meeting***

November 13, 2021 at 11 A.M.

at the

Historic Wilderness Baptist Church  
Spotsylvania, Virginia

**Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc.**  
**2021 Annual Report**

**Officers and Board of Directors**

Mark Leach, President

Bob Lookabill, Vice President

Jeff Slunt, Treasurer

Milbrey Bartholow, Secretary

**Directors**

Suzanne Baxter

Gary Close

Robert Epp

Kevin Hunt

Pete Kolakowski

Lynn McDonald

Ruth Pavlik

Dick Rankin

Daniel Sheron

Don Shockey

Beth Stenstrom

**Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc.  
Annual Membership Business Meeting**

**Agenda**

**Call to Order**

Mark Leach, President

**Declaration of Quorum**

Lynn McDonald, Acting Secretary

**Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes**

**2021 Financials**

Jeff Slunt, Treasurer

**Welcoming Remarks**

Mark Leach, President

**Election of Members to the Board of Directors**

Pete Kolakowski, Chair, Nominating Committee

**Remarks**

Kirsten Talken-Spaulding, Superintendent  
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park

**Announcements/Questions**

**Adjourn**

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

**Lunch, catered by Bella Cucina of the Lake, will be served immediately following the business meeting.**

**Our guest speaker is John Hennessy, recently retired Chief Historian for the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.**

**Friends of Wilderness Battlefield  
Annual Membership Meeting Minutes  
7 November 2020**

President Leach called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M. The attendance was low due to COVID-19, but Secretary Bartholow announced that we did have a quorum, even though it was mostly board members.

President Leach asked if all in attendance had read the minutes from the 2019, which were in the report booklet, and all agreed they had. Member Det Wilkins motioned that the minutes be accepted, Director Baxter seconded the motion, and all approved.

Treasurer Slunt announced that the gift from the estate of deceased member Nate Bond was in the Operating Account.

President Leach highlighted some of the big things that happened during the past year. The most important item was that the new bathrooms are now fully operational and ready for public use. NPS has hire a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to clean them once or twice a week. They were to have a timed lock system, but now it has been decided that they will have a manual lock system. Under Det Wilkins' leadership, the Ground Force now has 4 big mowers, and one is an extra-large one that will cut tall stuff. The annual NPS volunteer picnic was held in September and was a huge success. Social distancing was observed and food came in boxes. About 150 came, ate, and listened to the rangers tell funny tales about some of their experiences on the job.

Vice President Lookabill presented a history and an update on the hospital room. From May 1863 until at least August 1863, Ellwood served as a Confederate hospital for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps CSA. Records indicate that at least 132 patients were treated there. Records show that Dr John Alexander Graham from Lexington was one of the doctors during that time. Dr Harvey Black was also a doctor there and actually amputated the arm of one young man, Adam Wilson. Adam wrote letters to his father and left as soon as he could and walked all the back to his home in what is now West Virginia. Adam is portrayed as one of the patients in the display. Furnishings are as authentic as possible, coming from antique stores and families. The figures were made by a company in Baltimore.

In the absence of Director Kolakowski, Director Epp resented the slate of officers for the 2020-2023 term. They are as follows: incumbents Mark Leach, Milbrey A Bartholow, Beth Stenstrom, Pete Kolakowski, and new member Gary Close. Director Bartholow made a motion to accept the slate, Member Wilkins seconded the motion, and all approved.

Ranger Greg Mertz sent greeting from NPS. And presented some highlight. He stated that Wilderness is doing much better than some parks, mainly due to our volunteers. FoWB sponsored an intern. The Ground Force kept the ground looking pristine. We

are the only park that has been able to have any interpretation, and we hosted the volunteer picnic. All of this gives us a very favorable influence with NPS. There are three areas that need to have focus – Safety, Politics, and Harassment – and all will be address during training sessions. Greg announced that he is retiring in March 2021, but is willing to do training if we have it. Frank O'Reilly will be one of our ne support staff. Mary O'Neal will be the FoWB liaison, and Becca Torry will be the volunteer coordinator. Based on the recently discovered 1866 photo, there will be some changes to the house. Both visitor centers are having major work done. At CVC, the well went bad and a new one has to be dug. At FVC, the basement was flooding, so the outside walls had to be waterproofed. All who applied for an internship got one, and each was given a special project.

President Leach adjourned the meeting at 12:25 P.M.

Respectively submitted,

Milbrey A Bartholow  
Secretary of FoWB Board

## **Treasurer's 2021 Annual Report**

Data as of September 30, 2021

### **Luminaria Checking Account (previously Ellwood Cultural Landscape)**

|                             |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Balance per Books 9/30/2020 | \$7,879.07 |
| Balance per Books 9/30/2021 | \$79,68.48 |
| Change                      | \$89.41    |

### **FoWB Operating Checking Account**

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Balance per Books 9/30/2020 | \$61,519.38 |
| Balance per Books 9/30/2021 | \$69,845.03 |
| Change                      | \$8,325.65  |

### **FoWB Money Market Account (Reserve Fund)**

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Balance per Books 9/30/2020       | \$20,120.49 |
| Balance per Books 9/30/2021       | \$20,122.36 |
| Change                            | \$1.87      |
| Total Cash Assets as of 9/30/2020 | \$89,518.94 |
| Total Cash Assets as of 9/30/2021 | \$97,935.87 |

**The Friends of Wilderness Battlefield keeps their books on a cash basis.**

**Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(C)(3) corporation  
Tax ID 42-1689437**

# **Ellwood Committee 2021 Annual Report**

Submitted by Don Shockey, Chair

*Members: Bob Lookabill, John Bell, Kevin Hunt, Bob Epp, Ruth Pavlik,  
Gil Churchill, Greg Mertz (NPS)*

## **ELLWOOD VISITATION**

Visitations for the 2021 season through September totaled 1900. Volunteer interpreter hours through September totaled 1268.

The coronavirus has again severely impacted all of FoWB's operations in 2021 including the interpretive operations at Ellwood. At the beginning of the interpreting season the house remained closed to the public. FoWB began weekend interpreting, again on the landscape, on the 24th of April. Because the coronavirus reduced both the number of FoWB interpreters and Ellwood visitors the decision was made to only open Ellwood Fridays thru Mondays during the summer. Shortly after opening the house to visitors the Park required masks be worn in all Park buildings. Weekend only operations were resumed on the 21st of August. The last day of 2021 operations was the 7th of November.

The coronavirus and the cancelation of all special programs has again had a significant impact on the number of visitors in 2021. The number of visitors by the end of September 2021 was 1900. While up slightly from the 1771 visitors at the end of September 2020 the number of visitors was still significantly lower than the 4527 pre-pandemic visitors at the end of September 2019.

## **TRAINING and RECRUITMENT**

Two new interpreters received training on March 27, 2021. NPS Supervisory Historian Greg Mertz led the new interpreter training. In person training for veteran interpreters was conducted on the 17th and 21st of April. The training was led by NPS Lead Historians John Hennessy outside at Ellwood. While veteran training has in the past been optional it is now required every year for volunteers who interact with the public.

The loss of a number of interpreters due to covid and other reasons has reduced the number of active interpreters to about twenty-five.

Don Shockey

Ellwood Operations Committee Chair

# **Battlefield Resources Committee**

## **2021 Annual Report**

Submitted by Kevin Hunt, Chair

### ***Volunteer Members:***

*Det Wilkens, Ellwood Site Captain*

*Ann Bayer, Ron Bishop, Gil Churchill, Tom Jacobs, Joe LaFleur, Mark Leach, Jim Manchester, Gary Mauss, Karen O'Brien, John Rourke, Glynn Smith, Bob Smoak, Annette Todd, Russell Todd, Bill Witter, Bob Gavin, Dan Ryman*

### **Battlefield Ground Force (BGF)**

The BGF continued to provide outstanding upkeep to Ellwood and associated Wilderness Battlefield grounds. Grounds work has been performed essentially a year-round due to the dedication of the volunteers, with the BGF trimming trees and brush, removing trees, clearing undergrowth, and providing maintenance throughout the year. As the year entered the growing season, the BGF's weekly tasks included mowing of the grounds surrounding Ellwood, along the length of the driveway, the Wilderness Run trail, and Wilderness Tavern site and tending to various gardens in addition to the brush trimming and clearing duties. The National Park Service Maintenance Department provided excellent support to the BGF throughout the year, providing supplies and equipment to facilitate the BGF efforts. Specific tasks accomplished in 2021 include:

- Installed erosion control measures around Ellwood.

### **Park Service Support**

- NPS actively supported the Ground Force and provided guidance concerning the maintenance of Ellwood grounds in light of the virus restrictions.
- NPS installed air conditioning to the BGF breakroom in the brooder barn.

### **Park Day**

- Unfortunately, Park Day was cancelled again this year due to the virus.

### **Wilderness / Walmart Tract Primitive Campsite**

- The primitive campsite on the Walmart tract was continuously monitored and maintained so that it would be ready for use when requested. When utilized, typically the BRC would coordinate the opening/closing of the facility, the delivery of a porta-potty, and develop tasks for the scouts.
- Wilderness tract reports were provided to the Virginia Dept of Historical Resources that covered 2020 and first, second, and third quarters of 2021.



## **Membership/Heritage Committee 2021 Annual Report**

Submitted by Milbrey A. Bartholow, Chair

*Members: Robert Epp, Daniel Sheron, Lynn McDonald*

This year has continued to be different in so many ways. The pandemic continues, although things are easing up a little. We still have had no person-person contact with the public, but we continue our work.

We have a very supportive notification system for our members – email letters, personal contacts like phone calls, etc. – , and we will continue to cultivate the support we receive from our members. We are so grateful for you, our members, and without you, we could not exist. We hope you continue to spread the word about what we do here – Preserve, Protect, and Promote – our wonderful battlefield.

The membership committee continues to send renewal reminders and thank you letters for money received. This year we have obtained 18 new members, but we have lost quite a few. Several moved and left no forwarding address. Several have passed away during the past few years and we just found out. Our goal for this next year is to get our numbers back up.

The Heritage Program has added 4 new members to the Wilderness Brigade and currently we are working on several other potential candidates. Please take time to search you past and see who is lurking there just waiting to be honored. Our committee is waiting to help you.

Our committee also planned and had the annual meeting last November in spite of COVID-19 restrictions. Minutes can be found elsewhere in this booklet.

## **Governance Committee 2021 Annual Report**

Submitted by Pete Kolakowski, Chair

*Members: Bob Epp, Bob Lookabill, Craig Raines, Don Shockey, Beth Stenstrom, Gary Close*

The Committee had a relatively quiet COVID year. The routine work consisted of answering questions about and interpretation of the bylaws.

The current approved set of FoWB bylaws are dated August 8, 2020.

Also, as required in the bylaws, the Governance Committee was designated by the FoWB President the Nominating Committee for proposing the slate of Board candidates for election at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

The Nominating Committee conducted the process of identifying candidates to be elected to the Board by the membership at the annual meeting. This year the annual meeting will be presented with a slate of five nominees for a term of three years which is the Class of 2024 and one nominee filling a vacancy in the Class of 2023. Filling these director positions will maintain and continue the FoWB Board consisting of 15 members as provided for in the bylaws.

The Governance Committee seeks to expand in 2022 with others from the general membership. Members that may be interested in becoming Governance Committee members are encouraged to let the chairman know their interest and with their contact information.

# **Communications Committee 2021 Annual Report**

Submitted by Beth Stenstrom, Chair

*Members: Milbrey Bartholow, Suzanne Baxter, Bob Epp, Lynn McDonald, Ruth Pavlik, Dick Rankin, Diane Smith*

This year, we met with Josh Walton, lead web designer with Websites for Anything, and we are in the process of updating our website. The older platform was not working well anymore, and we wanted a newer, fresher look. We should have our new and improved website up and running by the beginning of 2022.

Due to COVID 19 restrictions, we were not able to do many outreach events this year. We did have a tent at the Orange Street Festival in September, and our volunteers enjoyed talking with a lot of people. Hopefully, we will be able to have our Welcome Table at Living History events next year at Ellwood.

The Communication Committee Chair still co-administers the FoWB Facebook page, and we still work closely with the Membership Committee Chair to send out renewal reminders every month. We also have continued to send out a quarterly newsletter four times a year.

We currently have 1,180 Contacts subscribed to our Constant Contact account, and we have 2,088 “Likes” on our Facebook page.

## **Education Outreach Committee**

### **2021 Annual Report**

Submitted by Suzanne Baxter, Chairman

*Members: John Bell, Joe Bianchini, Bob Epp, Bill Huntington,  
Pete Kolakowski, Merry Ellen Korpan, Bob Lookabill, Mike  
Mikolosko, Beth Stenstrom, Barry Thompson, and NPS Historian  
Peter Maugle*

#### **2021 Activities and Events**

Most planned activities and events in 2021 were cancelled or postponed due to the impact of COVID.

#### **Wilderness Field Days:**

We hosted over 40 Home School students and parents in March at Ellwood. They participated in several activities outdoors, completing the Junior Ranger Booklet. A 2nd and 3rd Home School Events were cancelled due to COVID. We do not anticipate hosting the Locust Grove Elementary School 4th Graders until 2022.

#### **Educational and Informational Programs:**

In 2022, we are planning to sponsor 1 event, originally planned for 2020: Hennessy Presentation on the Wilderness at Fawn Lake (May);

#### **Untold Stories:**

This event, scheduled for this past March, was cancelled. No further programs are planned.

#### **History in Our Backyard (HIOB):**

We now have articles in the HIOB portfolio, which appear regularly in the *Orange County Review*, *Front Porch*, and the *Fawn Lake Lifestyle* publications as well as periodically in other local community social media.

We have provided the portfolio to *Front Porch*, a Fredericksburg tourist publication, HIOB articles will begin to appear in this publication. There are several new articles in the pipeline and Mike Mikolosko, our editor, is seeking many new stories for future publication.

## **Programs Committee**

### **2021 Annual Report**

Submitted by Bob Lookabill, Chair

*Members: John Bell, Kevin Hunt, Greg Mertz (NPS), Bob Epp,  
Ruth Pavlik, Gil Churchill, Beth Stenstrom*

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions on indoor/outdoor public events, all living history and other public programs at Ellwood were canceled this year. The committee is making plans for the 2022 events and we are hopeful that next year will be normal!

## Nominations for Board of Directors

\*\* Denotes Incumbent Member Nominated for Re-Election

### **\*\* Suzanne Baxter (Three Year term 2024)**

Suzanne M. Baxter and her husband, Mark, retired to Lake of the Woods (LOW) in 2016. They found Lake of the Woods was their perfect retirement home.

Suzanne was born and grew up in Niagara Falls, New York. She and Mark met in high school .They married after college .They have two children and five grandchildren.

Suzanne is a graduate of SUNY at Geneseo, with a BS in Library Science and MS from Niagara University in Educational Administration. She has taken many additional graduate courses through Marymount University and Shenandoah University.

Suzanne's career included 26 years in Catholic education as a high school librarian and retired as head librarian. In addition, she worked many years in private industry as a technical librarian. In addition she has volunteered with the Humane Society of Fairfax, Girl Scouts adult education, PTA president and neighborhood community positions.

Suzanne joined FOWB as an interpreter, is a Board Member, Chairman of the Education Committee and member of several other FOWB committees, maintains the FOWB volunteer statistics and volunteers with FOWB's many events.

### **Stephanie Bianci (Three Year Term 2024)**

Stephanie received a B.S. in Biology with minors in Chemistry and Anthropology from the University of Arizona, and a Master's in Information Science from the University of Maryland. She served as a reference librarian at Georgetown University, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the Department of State. She was library director at the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Corvallis Research Laboratory, and the National Science Foundation. She currently works part-time for the Institute for Defense Analysis.

She has lived in Fredericksburg since retiring from federal service. She enjoys caring for her horses, mule, and dogs, gardening, and making quilts. She is a fan of Old Time Radio and has an extensive collection of radio programs from the 30's, 40's, 50's, and 60's. She is a frequent participant of the Cornell University Great Backyard Bird Count.

### **Joe Lafleur (Two Year Term 2023)**

Joe Lafleur III was born in Montgomery County, Maryland with his upbringing and schooling through high school and junior college in Darnestown. After three Summers in Spain, a few university courses and various professional certifications, Joe was led to Northern Virginia to construction management jobs. A couple decades experience managing large commercial construction projects and contracting smaller residential work culminated in frequent work and falling in love with the Fredericksburg area. He and his wife Katy bought their home on the Wilderness battlefield in 2005. From that point on, Joe's interest was piqued to explore as well as study the Wilderness area and battlefield.

Walking his dog, Joe met the Grounds Force of Ellwood and began working with them. After a couple years and since 2015, he began working as an Interpreter at Ellwood and took on FoWB's stewardship of the Wilderness Tract for DHR. Joe monitors and maintains the property for public use; mostly by Boy and Girl Scout troops to camp and learn the history. Joe continues to support FoWB's work through Ellwood's many programs and with the Ground Force.

### **Greg Mertz (Three Year Term 2024)**

Gregory A. Mertz was born and raised near St. Louis, Missouri. His interest in the Civil War developed as the result of the annual hiking and camping trips his Boy Scout Troop made to Shiloh National Military Park in Tennessee which also helped him earn the rank of Eagle Scout. Greg was awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree in Recreation and Park Administration from the University of Missouri (Columbia) in 1978. Six years later, while working for the National Park Service, he received a Master of Science degree in Public Administration from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania.

Greg began his National Park Service (NPS) career in 1980 as a Park Ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park and the Eisenhower National Historic Site. Four years later he was reassigned to the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park (F&SNMP). Greg initially served as the site historian at the "Stonewall" Jackson Death Site at Guiney Station. His next assignment was as site historian and museum curator at the Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Center. Greg's last assignment was as the Supervisory Historian at the F&SNMP in charge of visitor services operations. Concluding a 40 year career with the National Park Service, Greg retired in 2021.

Greg's NPS accomplishments were many. These included training hundreds of seasonal employees, interns, and volunteers on researching and conducting interpretive history programs. These people are the next generation of Civil War and military historians. Greg conducted numerous tours as well as authored many Civil War articles for numerous national publications as well as being an author of the book "Attack at Daylight and Whip Them: The Battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862." Mertz was the charter president of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table and was part of the preservation work by the Brandy Station Foundation. Importantly, Greg has provided training to the Ellwood's interpreters and supported FoWB's mission in many other ways for the preservation of the Wilderness Battlefield.

### **\*\* Ruth Pavlik (Three Year Term 2024)**

A native of suburban Pittsburgh, PA, Ruth graduated from Clarion (PA) University with a BS in Elementary Education. However, the majority of her professional life was spent in the field of volunteer administration. For the 14 years prior to her 2015 retirement, she was the Volunteer Coordinator for Hospice of the Rapidan (now Hospice of the Piedmont) in Culpeper.

Ruth has made Virginia her home for almost all of her adult life--beginning in Arlington, with two stops in Fairfax County, then Warrenton, and finally moving into her current home in Lake of the Woods in 2005.

When planning her life after retirement, FoWB was at the top of her list of prospective volunteer opportunities. She serves as an interpreter, is Coordinator of the Junior Ranger Program and is a member of the Communications, Elwood, Programs and Membership Committees. Ruth also volunteers at the Orange County Visitors Center and does clerical work for LOWLINC, a senior citizen assistance group. In addition to volunteering, she is an avid sports fan, especially football and baseball, loves to read, do needlework, and travel. Ruth is the mother of two daughters and grandmother of four.

### **\*\* Jeff Slunt (Three Year Term 2024)**

#### **Treasurer**

Jeff holds a Ph.D. degree in Microbiology from the University of Virginia. He works from home for PRA International on a large colorectal cancer clinical trial. His wife is professor at the Chemistry department at the University of Mary Washington and they have two children, Todd and Madeline.

Jeff enjoys either coaching or watching his children play soccer most weekends. He volunteers for the Park Service at Chatham one day a month and takes advantage of every opportunity to learn more about the American Civil War.



## **Continuing Board Members**

### **Gary Close (2023)**

A San Diego, California native, Gary grew up in and around Petersburg, Virginia, living amidst Civil War forts and artifacts. He received a BA, magna cum laude, in English Literature from the University of Virginia (Wise) and a Juris Doctorate from the College of William and Mary. He also completed two years of graduate studies in Mass Communication at the University of Tennessee.

Gary worked as a reporter and news editor in Culpeper before entering law school in 1984. He practiced law in the Culpeper area and in 1992 was elected Commonwealth's Attorney. For 20 years he served in that position before retiring. Gary also served as a Gubernatorial appointee on the Virginia Commission on Youth for 12 years.

During that time, he developed an interest in genealogy which in turn led to an interest in Civil War history having discovered he is the descendent of three Union soldiers. One fought in the Battle of the Wilderness.

Besides his careers in journalism and law, Gary is an avid artist. His work is in the collection of the Culpeper County Museum and in the homes of collectors in Europe and the United States. He is the author of Breakout: The Roswell Legacy.

Currently, Close is working on two new books and continues to follow his passion in art. During the day he and "Super Dog Sandy" often walk the grounds at Elwood Manor. When not so occupied he sails a Flying Scot.

Gary met his wife Linda during the first week of college. They married a year after graduating and have two children. They moved to Lake of the Woods in 2016.

### **Kevin Hunt (2022)**

Kevin was born in Worcester, MA, where he lived until moving to Northborough, MA. He graduated from UMass-Dartmouth (then known as Southeastern Massachusetts University) with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and from George Washington University with a Masters in Engineering Administration. He moved to Virginia in 1979 and worked at the US Army's Night Vision Laboratory as a systems engineer until he retired in 2013.

Since joining FoWB in 2014, he has volunteered as an interpreter at Ellwood and served on the Ellwood committee in 2016. He has always been interested in history, and was excited to move to Spotsylvania, among the four battlefields of the FSNMP. His interest in Civil War history peaked when he had the opportunity to participate in several staff rides lead by renowned Penn State history professor, including tours of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and Antietam.

Kevin has been married to his wife Cindy for 41 years and has two grown daughters, Stacy and Kelly, and two grandchildren, Riley and Reece. He lives in Spotsylvania County just south of Chancellorsville.

### **Peter Kolakowski (2023)**

Peter was born in Manhattan, New York City and grew up in St. James, Long Island, New York. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science from Ripon College, Ripon, Wisconsin and a Master of Public Administration from American University, Washington, D.C. Peter was a resident of Fredericksburg since 1972.

Over his 40-year public service career, Peter first served in the U.S. Army for five years, then six years in executive management positions with the City of Fredericksburg, the last four as City Manager. He then worked in Virginia State government in executive positions for VDOT for 15 years primarily as Assistant Commissioner. His last 14 years before retirement was a return to the federal government with the U.S. Navy at the Naval Surface Warfare Center-Dahlgren Division as the department head for operations.

Since retirement, Peter has been an active participant and member of several area nonprofits that preserve land and provide interpretation on the Civil War, U.S. Navy and other history of the area and Virginia.

Currently, Peter lives in Madison, Wisconsin and continues to support history and preservation work and projects.

### **Mark Leach (2023)**

#### **President**

Mark was born in Hudson, Wisconsin and attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison. A 34 year career with ExxonMobil placed Mark in Milwaukee, WI, St. Louis, MO and Fairfax, VA. His most recent positions were in IT project management and systems training. Mark retired in April 2012.

Mark has been an Ellwood Interpreter and member of the Ground Force since joining FoWB in 2012. He has been a Director since 2013 and served as Vice President and Communications Committee Chair. Mark was elected FoWB President in 2015. Mark is retiring from the position of FoWB President in 2021.

Mark is a director on the board of the Orange County Chamber of Commerce serving as chairperson for the Governance and Nominating committees. He also serves on the Orange County Tourism Advisory Committee reporting to the County Board of Supervisors. He also co-chairs the battlefield Affinity Group for the National Park Foundation.

## **Bob Lookabill (2022)**

### **Vice President**

Bob was born in West Virginia and graduated from high school in Florida. He holds a Master's Degree in history from Marshall University, WV and in Strategic Studies from the Naval War College at Newport, RI. After teaching history and coaching baseball and football at the high school level for ten years Bob took an analytical position with the Defense Intelligence Agency. After his retirement from DIA, he worked for several defense contractors, both overseas and in the States. He is now fully retired. He is also a retired Navy Reserve Captain.

He has been an interpreter at Ellwood for twelve years and currently serves as Program Committee chair and closer. He is a member of the Fredericksburg Civil War Roundtable, dabbles in genealogy and has written several articles for the Orange County Historical Society Review. He and Bob Epp have presented a lecture to the Lake of the Woods Civil War Study Group on the hospital room at Ellwood.

Bob resides in Lake of the Woods near the Wilderness Battlefield. He has two grown sons and three grandsons. He is a member of the North American Torquay Pottery Society, enjoys travel, golf, and the Washington football and baseball teams.

## **Lynn McDonald (2022)**

Lynn McDonald grew up as an "army brat" on military bases until her parents landed in Virginia in the 1970s. Her education and working life was in Northern Virginia. Her work and employment was in administration and technical work for The MITRE Corporation where she produced technical reports in support of the FAA, NASA, and Department of Defense for over 30 years.

Lynn's interests are primarily in history and nature. One of her favorite childhood memories was family camping trips, especially in a wilderness. Her parents lived on Mine Run Road off Rt 20 for a few years and that is when she discovered the Wilderness Battlefield. When she discovered it was the first battle between Grant and Lee, Lynn did a deep dive into the story and has now become involved with the work preserving the story.

Lynn now has moved from Northern Virginia and resides in Orange County. She has one son, Zach, living in Northern VA and extended family in the area.

Lynn is an active member of FoWB as an Ellwood interpreter, member of committees and assists with many of the outreach programs.

## **Daniel Sheron (2022)**

Daniel Sheron was born and raised on the south side of Chicago . He received a degree of Bachelor of Science degree in Electronic Engineering Technology from the University of Southern Colorado , now Colorado State - Pueblo .

For the past 32 years Daniel has been employed by the U.S. Government as an engineer and IT specialist. Daniel loves travel and history. He has visited six continents, 20 countries, 47 US states, and over 1,600 U.S. counties. While traveling he often seeks out historic sites, cemeteries, and “unique and oddball” sites, such as the world’s largest catsup bottle.

Daniel and his wife, Annabel, have two grown sons, Matt and Jeff. When not entertaining, Daniel and Annabel enjoy Victorian dancing, rooting for the Washington Capitals and Nationals, and playing family board games.

Daniel has been an active FoWB member with work as an Ellwood interpreter, frequent contributor to the FoWB newsletter, and leading Victorian dances as part of the many outreach programs. He is also a Friend of Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia , an active contributor to the on-line genealogical resource Find-a-Grave, a member of The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, an interpreter at The Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum, and a Harriet Tubman Leadership program guide.

## **Don Shockey (2022)**

Don was born and grew up in Lafayette, Indiana. At the direction of POTUS he joined the US Army serving in the areas of communications and intelligence. In addition to a number of assignments in the US he had overseas assignments to Korea, Germany, and Italy. He retired from the Army as a Chief Warrant Officer.

After retirement he continued to serve the US Army as an Army Civilian with the Communications - Electronics Command serving as a branch chief in the Projects Division. In that capacity he managed numerous and varied projects including installing SIPRNet for V Corps in Europe, providing contractors to support the war in Iraq, supporting counter-drug efforts in Central and South America, and supporting Signal Intelligence operations in Korea. Don retired a second time in early 2016.

Don has had a lifelong interest in history of any kind but especially Civil War and family history. He has five great grandfathers who served in the Civil War. One of those ancestors was in the 10th Pennsylvania Reserves and served with the 5th Corps at the Battle of Wilderness. Don has been an Ellwood interpreter since 2016.

Don and his wife Lou celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2017 and are looking forward to many more years together. Don and Lou have three children and one grandchild. Don holds a BS in Business Management and a MS in Business Administration and is DA Certified Level III in Acquisition Logistics.

## **Beth Stenstrom (2023)**

Beth grew up jumping in and out of boats off the Texas coast and we can't keep her away from the water still. She is a full-blooded Texas Aggie, earning her B.S. in Education, Curriculum and Instruction, and she received her M.Ed. from the University of Missouri in St. Louis in Psychological Counseling.

She is a retired teacher who taught blind and visually impaired students at the Missouri School for the Blind for many years, and finished her career teaching Texas History to middle school students in New Braunfels, Texas. She and her husband, Jim, are avocational archeologists, and have had quite a lot of experience with the Texas Archeology Society, the South Texas Archeology Association, and the Hill Country Archeology Association.

As are many of our interpreters in FoWB, Beth is a Certified Tourism Ambassador with the Journey Through Hallowed Ground program. She is an officer in the Washington-Lewis DAR chapter in Fredericksburg, Virginia. She and her husband, Jim, are also charter members of the Friends of Chatham, as well as members of a papal order, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, which mission is to protect and maintain Holy sites in the Holy Land.

When Beth isn't running back and forth to the OBX, manning Information tables for FoWB at various venues, or working on Communications projects, you can usually find her, along with her cohorts in FoWB, running all over Virginia hunting for "treasures" in antique malls!

Beth and Jim have a son and a daughter, three granddaughters, and one grandson. Hobbies include hiking, genealogy, photography, reading, and history!

## **Retiring Board Members**

We are all very grateful for the many years of service for the following Directors who are retiring from the Board at the end of 2021:

**Milbrey Bartholow**

**Robert Epp**

**Dick Rankin**