



Banner of the Blue and Gray

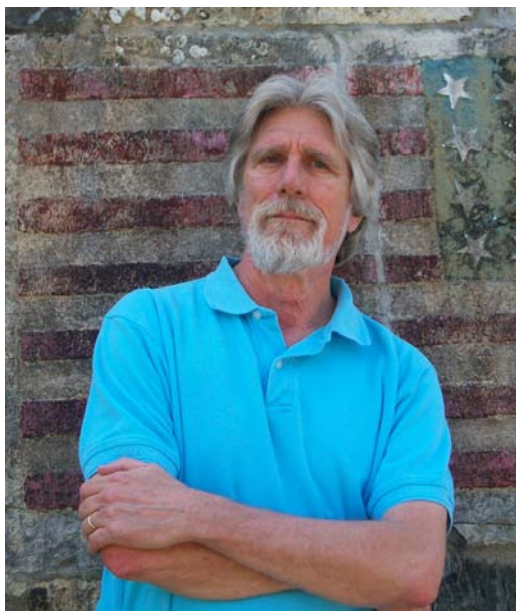
Newsletter of the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable Frederick, Maryland
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247th Meeting

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January 21, 2016 at 7:30pm National Museum of Civil War Medicine 48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland



Steven R. Stotemyer

The View From Sugar Loaf Mountain: The Overlooked Confederate Intelligence Failure of the Maryland Campaign.

From September 6 through September 10, 1862, portions of General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia occupied the Federal Signal Station atop Sugar Loaf Mountain in southern Frederick County. On September 7 General George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac began moving out of the Union Capital at Washington D.C. There are numerous documented accounts of Union soldiers observing Confederate signal flags and fires on Sugar Loaf as they moved through the Maryland Countryside. As they marched through Maryland, McClellan's troops raised large clouds of dust that were visible for many miles. These dust clouds were certainly visible from such a vantage point as Sugar Loaf. Yet the Confederate historical record is strangely silent regarding this aspect of the Maryland Campaign.

In September 1862 when General Lee moved into Maryland, General J.E.B. Stuart was responsible for screening Lee's army and providing Lee with knowledge not only of the position, but also the speed of the pursuing Union Army of the Potomac. General Stuart was also responsible for the personnel occupying the captured signal station. For several critical days early in the campaign, General Stuart did conduct a cat and mouse action with the Union Cavalry screening McClellan's army, but he also rested his troopers and entertained local civilians. The entertainment culminated at a gala ball at Urbana, Maryland, on September 8, 1862. Consequently, General Lee waited for decisive intelligence he never received. Had Lee known the actual locations and rapidity of movement of General George B. McClellan's army (betrayed by those dust clouds on the horizon) there is a good possibility he might have thought differently about Special Orders No. 191 and his Harpers Ferry Operation. As we know, events turned out differently and Lee issued the order on September 9, 1862, dividing the Confederate Army into four parts.

On the surface, it seems absolutely unimaginable to the modern observer that a Confederate Signalman looking eastward on September 9 could not have observed the columns of dust raised by McClellan's troops as they marched through the Maryland countryside. However, that seems to be exactly what happened, and the circumstances surrounding this largely overlooked period of the campaign do not reflect well on General Stuart.

Steven R. Stotemyer is a native of Hagerstown, Maryland. As a child he played among the monuments at Antietam National Battlefield during many family picnics to that area. After a stint in the U.S. Navy he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Frostburg State College and a Master of Arts from Hood College in Frederick Maryland. He has worked as a teacher, surveyor, and civil engineer. Always interested in local history, especially South Mountain and Antietam, Mr. Stotemyer was a founding member of the Central Maryland Heritage League in 1989. The league gained a modest amount of success in preserving some of the lands of the South Mountain Battlefield. From 1989 through 1994 Mr. Stotemyer served as a volunteer at the Antietam National Battlefield. In 1992 he published *The Bivouacs of the Dead: The Story of Those Who Died at Antietam and South Mountain*, Toomey Press, Baltimore Maryland. From 2000 through 2005 Mr. Stotemyer served as a part-time volunteer and historical consultant for the South Mountain State Battlefield. Steven has returned to Antietam as a volunteer and currently enjoys being a National Park Service Certified Antietam and South Mountain Tour Guide.

**SINCE OUR NEXT MEETING IS IN JANUARY AND JUST IN CASE
WINTER REALLY DOES ARRIVE!!!**

FCCWRT SNOW POLICY



The winter storm season is upon us. Due to foul weather conditions, we may need to cancel our monthly meeting. If Frederick County Schools and/or the National Museum of Civil War Medicine (meeting location) announce closures for the afternoon/evening of the meeting our meeting will be cancelled. We will make every attempt to send an email and Facebook notification as soon as the cancellation decision is made. Please use your best judgment in making safety your top priority.

FCCWRT HOLIDAY PARTY



On December 17, members were serenaded by “Evergreen Shade” and even sang some carols at the Museum decked out for the season.



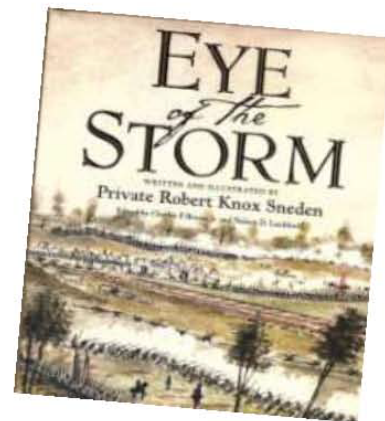
Ramblings from the Raffle Table

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a successfully exhausting Christmas with family & loved ones, near & far. And now are you ready for some good books to while away your long winter evenings?

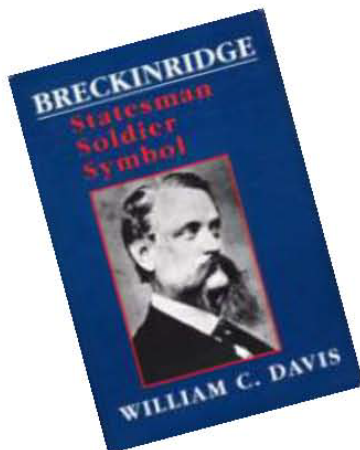
Born in Nova Scotia, 29 year old Private Sneden enlisted in the 40th NY Vol. Infantry in the summer of 1861. Sketches that he made parlayed



his talent to being assigned as a mapmaker for the Army of the Potomac. Captured in VA by Mosby in 1863, Sneden was sent to Libby Prison and then on to the infamous Andersonville. He later became a landscape artist



after the War. These eye witness accounts are all in [Eye of the Storm](#).



A veteran of the Mexican War, John C. Breckinridge was Vice-President to James Buchanan and then Secretary of War under Jefferson Davis. This comprehensive study of a complex man brings an indepth understanding to a Soldier, Congressman, Senator, Statesman.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Raffle Table through donations and the purchase of the raffle tickets. *Kathi*

PREZ SEZ

Looking ahead, make sure you plan to be here for the February meeting as we want to give the new Executive Director of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, David Price, a warm welcome as he speaks to our group on the 18th.

Wishing all the best for the coming year--Jack



IN MEMORIAM

Frank Parsons, Jr.

Frank R. Parsons Jr., born January 25, 1928, in Salisbury, Maryland, passed away peacefully in his sleep in the early hours of December 28, 2015, in Rochester, New York. He was the beloved husband to Barbara Hughes Parsons and devoted father to David, Diane, Mary, and Nancy. He resided in Frederick, Maryland since 1995 where he was an active church goer as well as a docent with the National Civil War Medical Museum (Frederick News-Post, December 30, 2015).

Frank had also been an active member of the FCCWRT.

We are on Facebook! Please check out our page for timely updates, local events, or comments.



<https://m.facebook.com/fccwrt>

Gary Dyson is our "face" for Facebook.

Help us spread the word about OUR FCCWRT!!

Join Facebook. Share posts with friends! You'll get more timely notice of events when you check us out on Facebook.

Our MISSION

TO cultivate and preserve Frederick County's Civil War heritage and broaden the understanding of the Civil War Era and its impact on our nation.

TO explore the many facets of the Civil War from the battlefield to first-person narratives, including guest lectures by writers and historians.

TO support historical projects and activities aimed at increasing public interest and appreciation of our Civil War history, both locally and nationally.

Looking Ahead

At our February meeting we'll meet the new director of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, David Price. We hope to see you there on Thursday, February 18th!

2015-2016 Board of Directors

Jack Sheriff, President
301-371-4148 jbsheriff1@comcast.net

Bob Kozak, Treasurer/ Vice President
301-644-1396 KZAKR@aol.com

Matt Borders, Webmaster/ Secretary
301-639-6580 mborders@comcast.net

Kathi Donatucci, Raffle Table
301-874-0197 corsair45@comcast.net

Joe Collins, At Large
froggyjoe@aol.com

Gary Dyson, Facebook, Newsletter
gldyson@comcast.net

Tom Dumm, At Large
thomas.dumm@obg.com

For questions, comments or dues, contact:

FCCWRT

P.O. Box 3232, Frederick MD 21705-3232

www.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org

We're always looking for new members to join our ranks! Recruit your friends!

For those who remembered to renew your FCCWRT membership, thank you! Your dues make it possible for us to continue to fulfill our mission. We can't continue without your support! Please ask your friends to join we can do even more!

As a member of our group, you'll enjoy these benefits:

- receive the current newsletter
- receive email updates of local events related to Civil War history

Our yearly dues are:

- \$30.00 for an individual
- \$50.00 for a family up to four
- \$5.00 for out of state members and members under 16 years of age

You can renew your membership at our meeting or by mail. The membership form may be downloaded from our website at <http://www.frederickcountycivilwart.org/>.