

Banner

of the **Blue and Gray**

Newsletter of the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable
Frederick, Maryland
Founded January 30, 1989

<http://frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org>



205th Meeting

September 2011

Vol. 38 Issue 1

A second chance to enjoy the fun

PICNIC!

SAVE THE DATE! SAT., SEPT. 24, 3-6 PM

Our 4th Annual Picnic (rescheduled due to the extreme heat in July) will be held on Sat., Sept. 24 from 3-6pm at the England Farm, home of FCCWRT members Judy and Jeff England, 5620 Detrick Road, Mt. Airy, MD.

As a special treat this year, we'll have home-cooked chicken prepared on-the-spot and live music by Cobey England performing on the hammered dulcimer. We'll also tour the Englands' historic home and view displays of Civil War battlefield and campsite relics found in Frederick County.

REMEMBER: Please contact FCCWRT Vice President Phillip Dean **no later than September 17th** with how many people in your group will be attending. Phil can be reached at: pd10X@comcast.net or 301-865-8202. Check our website and/or the flyer we emailed to you for further details and directions. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. A fee of \$7 per person will be collected upon arrival to help defray the costs of the picnic. Family and friends are welcome!



OUR NEXT MEETING, Oct. 20 at 7:30 pm, will be held at the new Frederick County Visitor Center, 151 S. East Street in Frederick. John Fieseler, Executive Director of the Tourism Council of Frederick will speak on the topic of Civil War Trails and give us a tour of the Center.

September Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011

7:30 pm

at the

National Museum of Civil War Medicine

48 East Patrick Street

Frederick, Maryland 21701

Speaker: James A. Morgan, III

Subject: *The Battle of Ball's Bluff*

Our Speaker

Jim Morgan, a lifelong Civil War enthusiast whose Confederate ancestors served in the Pointe Coupee, LA, Artillery, the 6th Louisiana Battery, and the 41st Mississippi Infantry, will kick off our 2011-2012 season with a program about the 1861 Battle of Ball's Bluff on the banks of the Potomac River in Leesburg, VA.

Jim's recently re-released tactical study titled *A Little Short of Boats: The Fights at Ball's Bluff and Edwards Ferry, October 21-22, 1861*, has been called "the definitive account of Ball's Bluff."

In the grand scheme of Civil War studies, Ball's Bluff was a small skirmish perhaps most notable for the death of the U.S. Senator from Oregon, Edward D. Baker, the only sitting Senator to die in battle during the Civil War.

The battle ensued three months to the day after the First Battle of Manassas and just six months into the war. In October 1861, as the leaves turned and the night air brought a chill, the Union and Confederate soldiers gathered near Leesburg, were facing their first winter



as soldiers and realizing the war would not be over any time soon. Despite the long-held and often-repeated belief that the battle resulted from a deliberate and pre-planned Union attempt to take Leesburg, it was, in fact, a simple accident.

A small Union raiding party on a limited reconnaissance mission encountered and engaged a few Confederate pickets. From this unintended skirmish, a battle evolved. Of the approximately 3,440 troops involved, 223 Union troops were killed, 226 wounded and 553 captured. The Confederates lost 36 men; 110 were wounded and three captured.



At left, the Currier & Ives color lithograph depicts the "Death of Col. Edward D. Baker at the Battle of Ball's Bluff, Oct. 21, 1861. During the Civil War, the American printing company produced many lithographs of battle scenes.

The Battle of Ball's Bluff was soon overshadowed by larger, bloodier, more significant battles. But in the early days of the war, this little fight that took place some 35 miles northwest of Washington, DC, captured the imagination of North and South alike and had political consequences far greater than anyone would have imagined.



Born in New Orleans where his family had moved after the war from their destroyed Morganza Plantation north of Baton Rouge, Jim Morgan grew up in Pensacola, FL. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1969-71 and in the Foreign Service from 1980-86.

A past president of the Loudoun County Civil War Roundtable, Jim is a member of the Loudoun County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee and serves on the advisory boards of the Mosby Heritage Area Association and the Thomas Balch History and Genealogy Library in Leesburg. He also volunteers as a guide at Ball's Bluff for the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. As a reenactor, Jim has done both Union and Confederate artillery and infantry impressions with several different units.

Jim holds Master's degrees in Political Science and Library Science and currently works as the Acquisitions Librarian for the State Department's Office of International Information Programs in Washington, D.C. He lives in Lovettsville, VA.

The Prez Sez



Wow! What a way to end our 2010-2011 season, with 52 members and friends in attendance at our May meeting. By all reports, our speaker, Dr. Craig Symonds, Professor Emeritus of the U.S.

Naval Academy, was spellbinding! SO sorry to have missed him, but Dottie and I had already left for vacation, and were resting comfortably on Waikiki Beach as you met. We have been refreshed and are anxious to share our new season with all of you!

Our July Picnic unfortunately was cancelled due to the extreme heat our area has experienced. Hope to see you on our new date, Saturday, September 24. (See details on Page 1.)

Over the summer, our Board again assembled the coming season's roster of speakers. These are reported on our website and highlighted in our monthly *Banners*. I'm looking forward to our 2011-2012 season, and hope you enjoy our lecture selections.

Members, on another subject: If you are interested in being a volunteer for our Roundtable, please contact any Board member. We occasionally need extra help at special events and this 'n that, and we would like to have a list of members we can call on. Also, for your convenience, we will have a sign-up sheet available at the entry desk at September's meeting. Think about it, and let us know.

Donnie

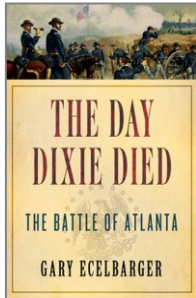
At our last meeting . . .



At our May meeting, Dr. Craig Symonds both enlightened and entertained another record-setting crowd with a fascinating talk about Abraham Lincoln and how he dealt with his Navy and the Navy's admirals during the war. Dr. Symonds' lively presentation was based on his recent book, *Lincoln and His Admirals: Abraham Lincoln, the U.S. Navy, and the Civil War*, winner of many prestigious awards including the Lincoln Prize, the Baroness Lincoln Prize, and the Abraham Lincoln Institute Book Award, among others. Following his lecture, Dr. Symonds answered questions from the audience and autographed copies of his book.

The Bookshelf

The Day Dixie Died: The Battle of Atlanta, by Gary Ecelbarger. Hardcover, photographs, maps, notes, order of battle, bibliography, index, 317 pp., 2010, Thomas Dunne Books, division of St. Martin's Press, New York, NY.



In July of 1864, Union forces fighting their way through northern Georgia on a mission to capture Atlanta encountered Confederate forces in the Battle of Atlanta, the bloodiest and most decisive battle of the Atlanta Campaign. Surprisingly little has been written about the battle – especially surprising because not only did the Union victory lay the groundwork for the fall of Atlanta six weeks later, but also because it ensured Lincoln's re-election.

Gary Ecelbarger gives the battle the attention it deserves in this engrossing account of the July 22, 1864 clash between Union forces under Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson and Confederate forces led by Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood. Casualties were high and the author spares no detail in describing the bloody combat. At the end of the day, the Union triumphed but lost McPherson, the highest ranking Union general to die in battle. From introduction to final chapter, this well-written book grounded in firsthand accounts meets the need for a comprehensive study of a crucial battle sorely neglected through the years.

Of local interest . . .

Hagerstown in the Civil War, by Stephen R. Bockmiller. Softcover, photographs, 128 pp., 2011, Arcadia Publishing, Mount Pleasant, SC.

More than just a collection of vintage pictures, this book effectively tells the story of Hagerstown before, during and after the Civil War in engaging text and carefully chosen photographs, drawings and other illustrations. Located a stone's throw from the Mason-Dixon Line in northwest Maryland, Hagerstown was a transportation and supply hub – a prize sought after by both sides during the war. Residents endured invasions and occupations as the city changed hands more than once. In 1864, Confederate Gen. Jubal Early held the city for ransom.

Author and Hagerstown City Planner Stephen Bockmiller successfully brings Hagerstown's rich history to life in this book, and gives readers new insight into the impact of the Civil War on Western Maryland.

The Battle of South Mountain, by John David Hoptak. Softcover, photographs, maps, index bibliography, orders of battle, 182 pp., 2011, The History Press, Charleston, SC.

Author, historian, and park ranger at Antietam National Battlefield, John David Hoptak skillfully captures the essence of the fierce one-day Battle of South Mountain, Sept. 14, 1862, in this concise volume generously layered

(Continued on Page 4, **Bookshelf**)

Calendar of Events

To Nov. 12, Exhibit of Families' Artifacts, Baltimore, MD

"Personal Accounts of the Civil War Experience" exhibit, Mount Clare Mansion Museum House in Carroll Park, formerly Civil War Camp Carroll. For information, Jane Woltereck, 410-837-0251; www.mountclare.org

Through 2011, Lincoln Exhibit, Baltimore, MD

"Riots, Railroads and the Coming of Mr. Lincoln" exhibit on Lincoln's trips through Baltimore, the city's riots and the role of Camden Station. At the Sports Legends Museum at Camden Station. 410-727-1539; www.baberuthmuseum.com.

Sept. 10, Lecture, Frederick MD, 11am

"Confederate Medical Service" talk by Civil War historian Mark Quattrock, National Museum of Civil War Medicine. Museum admission includes lecture. Information: 301-695-1862; www.civilwarmed.org.

Sept. 13-18, Multi-state Civil War Tour

Smithsonian "Journey Through Hallowed Ground" 150th anniversary Civil War tour from Charlottesville to Gettysburg. Includes Monticello, Montpelier, Brandy Station Battlefield and more. Tour cost: \$2,395, includes all meals and accommodations. www.SmithsonianJourneys.org/civil-war.

Sept. 17, South Mountain Benefit, Middletown, MD, 5:30-9:30 pm

Civil War era music, guest speakers, light fare, to benefit Battle of South Mountain Sesquicentennial Committee. At Washington Monument State Park. Adults: \$55; 12 and under: \$20. www.marylandcampaign150.org.

Sept. 17-18, Antietam Anniversary Weekend, Keedysville, MD, 11am-5pm

Living history at Pry House Field Hospital Museum & General McClellan's Headquarters. Civil War medicine & home front presentations. Information: 301-695-1864, www.civilwarmed.org.

Sept. 30-Oct.2, Seminar & Tour of Baltimore, MD

"The Opening Guns: War Comes to Maryland and Washington, DC," with Ed Bearss, Daniel Carroll Toomey, Matt Penrod. Bus tour of Civil War sites. 717-264-7101; www.chambersburgcivilwarseminar.org.

Sept. 30-Oct.2, Conference, Towson, MD

19th Annual Conference on Civil War Medicine, Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel. Lectures, Friday reception, Sat. and Sun. breakfast, bus tour and Sat. dinner. Information: Karen Thomassen, 301-695-1864; Museum@civilwarmed.org.

Oct. 1-2, Seminar, Manassas, VA

Longstreet Society Seminary, "With Sabre in Hand: Longstreet at 1st and 2nd Manassas." Battlefield tours, meals, auction, social. longstreet@optonline.net.

Ramblings from the Raffle Table

Friends, the winner of our May Special Raffle was Nancy Lewis. Congratulations to you, Nancy!

There will be NO Special Raffle in September, but there will be a LARGER selection of our 3/\$1 Raffle items. Come visit our table and see what an exciting assortment we have available this month! Figure the odds — the more items we have available, the greater your chances of taking home some new and interesting reading and/or viewing, or some just plain fun stuff.

We're looking forward to the new season.

ALWAYS check out our Raffle Table before each meeting!

Dottie

Around town

FCCWRT participates in Kemp Hall weekend

Your FCCWRT will be actively involved in the many programs to be held during the four-year 150th Anniversary of the Civil War.

On May 1, we staffed an information booth at the Frederick City Hall as part of the “Burning Question of Secession” commemoration of the late-April 1861 special session of the Maryland General Assembly at Kemp Hall to decide whether the state would secede from the Union. Our own Jack Sheriff, Board Member and archivist, also participated in the Kemp Hall open house as part of the activities.



From left, FCCWRT Board Treasurer Bob Kozak, Heart of the Civil War Heritage Director Liz Shatto, FCCWRT Vice President Phil Dean, FCCWRT member Nancy Garritt, and FCCWRT Board Archivist Jack Sheriff.

FCCWRT members at Rose Hill Encampment



From left, Kathy Fullerton, Scott Fullerton, Board Treasurer Bob Kozak, and Joanne Ivancic.

Each year for the past seven years Rose Hill Manor on North Market Street in Frederick commemorates the 1862 Civil War encampment at the manor with a weekend-long living history event. FCCWRT members, including our new Membership Chairperson Kathy Fullerton, braved the extreme heat to staff our information table.

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.

2009-2010 Board of Directors

Donnie Toms , President	301-668-8660
ddtoms@comcast.net	
Phillip Dean , Vice President	301-865-8202
pd10X@comcast.net	
Jim Enright , Secretary	Cell: 301-514-3741
jpenright@potomacadvisors.com	
Bob Kozak , Treasurer	301-644-1396
KZAKR@aol.com	
Jack Sheriff , Archivist	301-371-4148
jbsheriff1@comcast.net	
Jack Brennan , Webmaster	301-829-4415
jackAC3@comcast.net	
Dottie Toms , Director	301-668-8660
ddtoms@comcast.net	
Jeff Arey , Director	301-874-2609
jeff.arey@comcast.net	

Communications, dues, questions or comments for the Roundtable should be directed to:

FCCWRT

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

www.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org

Bookshelf (continued from Page 3)

with photos and hand-drawn maps. Long considered a mere prelude to Antietam three days later, the battle was a much-needed Union victory, one that also revealed McClellan’s failure of leadership. The 12-hour long Battle of South Mountain raged across three mountain gaps. The author smartly chose to give each battle a separate chapter, which enhances the reader’s understanding of the entire conflict.

Thanks to the author’s clear focus and storytelling ability, the Battle of South Mountain is no longer in the shadow of Antietam. This book is an excellent addition to The History Press Civil War Sesquicentennial Series – and a must-have for anyone interested in the Maryland Campaign of 1862.

