

Banner

of the Blue and Gray

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

<http://frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org>



188th Meeting

October 2009

Vol. 36 Issue 2

Sesquicentennial Event



John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry

"Harpers Ferry, Virginia, lay sleeping on the night of October 16, 1859, as 19 heavily armed men stole down mist-shrouded bluffs along the Potomac River where it joins the Shenandoah."

So begins a superb article, "Day of Reckoning," by Fergus M. Bordewich in the October *Smithsonian* magazine, just one of the many, many offerings and events commemorating what many consider the initial spark of War.

Here's a sampling of some of those events:

Oct. 10-April 11, John Brown Exhibit, Richmond, VA. From Kansas through John Brown's raid and execution. www.vahistorical.org.

Oct. 16-18, Sesquicentennial Commemoration of John Brown's Raid, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

Three days of events featuring a full slate of educational and ranger-conducted programs, music and dance. www.nps.gov.

Oct. 14-17, Symposium, "John Brown Remembered," Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. For information, 717-749-6213, or www.harpersferryhistory.org.

Oct. 17, "Frederick Reacts," Frederick MD. Living historians re-create the confusion and alarm at news of the Raid. Dedication of a Civil War Trails Marker. www.civilwarmed.org.

For more events, www.johnbrownraid.org.

October Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 15, 2009

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: National Museum of Civil War Medicine
48 East Patrick Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Speaker: Mr. David Shriver Lovelace

Subject: John Brown's Raid, October 1859 — the Frederick Militia

Our Speaker

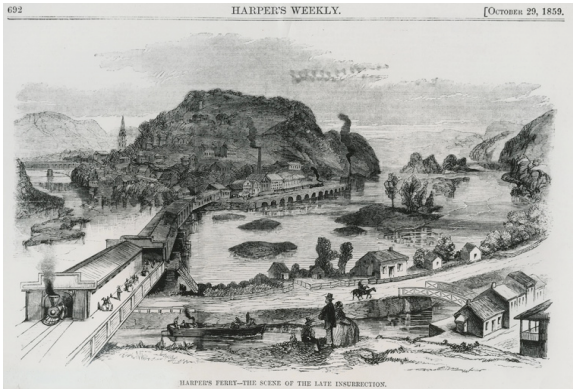


David Shriver Lovelace, a computer software quality assurance analyst, studies Civil War history from a genealogical perspective in his book, *The Shrivvers: Under Two Flags*. Mr. Lovelace's keen interest in Civil War history led him directly to the ancestral Shriver family homestead in Union Mills, MD, and ultimately to explore the family members' involvement in the Civil War, as well as the Shrivvers' participation in the War's milestones — from John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry to Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

Mr. Lovelace tells the story of the role played by the Frederick Militia, led by Colonel Edward Shriver, in ending the insurrection and sheds new light on events of John Brown's raid not usually detailed in books and articles.

On the morning of Oct. 17, 1859, word reached Frederick that the previous night a band of armed insurgents had attacked and taken possession of the federal armory at Harpers Ferry, VA, and secured their bastion with hostages.

The Maryland Militia, under the command of Colonel Shriver, a Frederick lawyer and the commander of the 16th Regiment, responded immediately to the emergency and three companies from Frederick boarded a train provided by the B&O Railroad, arriving in Harpers Ferry that evening.



The role of Colonel Shriver and the Frederick militia in the containment and eventual capture of Brown is often overlooked. Most historical accounts focus on how a contingent of Federal Marines, under the command of then Col. Robert E. Lee and Lt. J.E.B. Stuart, stormed the armory and overwhelmed John Brown and his fellow-raiders.

Drawing extensively from primary sources including eyewitness accounts and family letters *The Shrivvers: Under Two Flags* is described as the most comprehensive source on the family's activities in the Civil War.

The first edition of Mr. Lovelace's book was published in 2005. A revised edition, expanded with new material, was published this Spring in conjunction with the Union Mills Homestead in Westminster. The Shriver family homestead, built in 1797, is now a museum, operated by the Union Mills Homestead Foundation. The Homestead's Web site is www.unionmills.org.

Born in Bryn Mawr, PA, Mr. Lovelace is the sixth generation of the John Shultz Shriver line. He graduated from Southern Connecticut State University and lives in Connecticut.

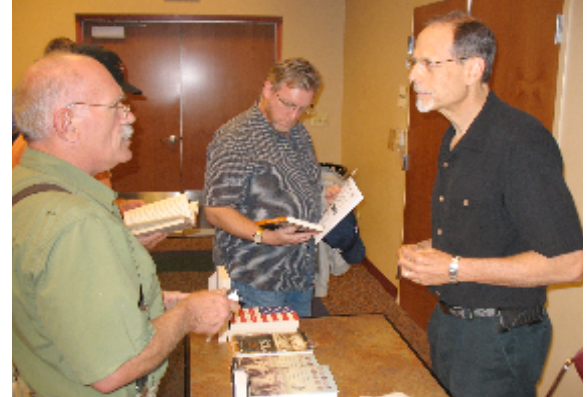
Next Month's Speaker

Steve French will speak on the topic of *Imboden's Brigade in the Gettysburg Campaign* at our next meeting, Thursday, Nov. 19.

FCCWRT Business

The Prez Sez

Looks like we are off to a great start for our 2009-2010 season! Our September meeting was well-attended. Upward of 30 of us enjoyed the evening. As always, we encourage you to bring your friends along to enjoy the lectures we present.



FCCWRT members talk with Marc Leepson, speaker at our September meeting, following his presentation.

Our Board of Directors has come up with another educational and stimulating line-up of speakers for this year which, as usual, are posted on our website by our capable Webmaster, Jack Brennan.

As always, all my good wishes for Health and Happiness to each of you.

Donnie

The Bookshelf

Creating the John Brown Legend, by Janet Kemper Beck, 2009 McFarland.

Just in time for the 150th Anniversary of the famous raid, the author explores the "spin doctoring" that, within a week, turned Brown from a perceived radical and criminal into a legendary hero.

Sickles at Gettysburg: The Controversial Civil War General Who Committed Murder, Abandoned Little Round Top, and Declared Himself the Hero of Gettysburg, by James A. Hessler, 2009 Savas Beatie Publishing.

The author, a licensed Battlefield Guide and teacher of college-level courses on the Civil War, offers a definitive work on Sickles, his July 2 advance at Gettysburg, his pre-War life and post-War campaign to maintain his place as the "Hero of Gettysburg."

While they last . . .

**The Frederick County
Civil War Roundtable
Official Collector's Cap**



Our official historic Blue and Gray Collector's Cap with a colorful stitched logo is still available, although our supplies are limited.

Caps will be available at our October Roundtable meeting, Thursday, Oct. 15, or by contacting Jim Enright at 301-514-3741, jpenright@potomacadvisors.com. Donation is \$15.

Calendar of Events

Oct. 16-18, 13th Annual Symposium at Pamplin Historical Park, Petersburg, VA

This year's 3-day symposium topic: "Military Leadership in the Army of Northern Virginia." For more information, 804-861-2408, Ext. 617; www.pamplinpark.org.

Oct. 17-18, Middletown, VA 145th Reenactment

145th Anniversary Reenactment of the Battle of Cedar Creek in Middletown, VA, on Oct. 19, 1864. For information, registration, contact the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, 888-628-1864, www.cedarcreekbattlefield.org.

Oct. 18, Exhibit to Benefit C&O Canal Trust, Artists Circle Gallery, Potomac, MD, 3-6 pm

Hosted by The Artists Circle, exhibit will feature the photographic work of artist Robert Buelteman. Refreshments. For information, www.canaltrust.org.

Calendar of Events (continued)

Oct. 24, Maryland Battlefield Hikes, 9am, 11:30am and 2:30pm

Ranger-led Battlefield Hikes at Monocacy National Battlefield, Frederick, MD. Free admission. Three hikes, each to a different area of the battlefield, will highlight events at those locations. Each hike is 2 hours and less than 2 miles. Limited registration. For information, registration, 301-662-3515.

Oct. 24-25, Living History Weekend, Gettysburg National Military Park, Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-2pm

Volunteers representing Union and Confederate Troops provide a weekend of living history with the 12th Alabama Infantry, CA camp and programs at Pitzer Woods.

Oct. 24-25, Civil War Antique Gun Show, AllStar Events Complex, Gettysburg, PA Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-2pm

Autumn Gettysburg Civil War Antique Gun & Militaria Show. Admission charge, under 16 free, free parking. For information, 717-642-6600.

Oct. 28, 2nd Annual Major John Letterman Award for Medical Excellence

The 2nd Annual Letterman Award will be presented to the U.S. Army's Medical Communications for Combat Casualty Care (MC4). Keynote Speaker is General Gordon Sullivan, U.S. Army Retired, President, Association of the U.S. Army. Catoclin Room at Musket Ridge, Myersville, MD. Seating is limited. For dinner tickets, reservations, or further information, call 301-416-2395 or visit the National Museum of Civil War Medicine online at www.civilwarmed.org.

Oct. 31, Living History, Antietam Battlefield, MD, 8:30am-5pm

Living history volunteers will recreate the daily life of a Civil War soldier. Weapons demonstrations and the interpretation of camp life ongoing throughout the weekend.

Through Dec. 20, Lincoln Exhibit, Surratt House Museum, Clinton MD.

"Remembering Mr. Lincoln — An Exhibition" honors Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday. Displays highlighting Lincoln's life and legacy; includes exhibits of memorabilia from private collections. For information, 301-868-1121, www.surratt.org.

In the News

Law suit filed in opposition to Wal-Mart site on Virginia's Wilderness Battlefield



On Sept. 23, in the wake of an 11th hour vote by the Orange County Board of Supervisors approving a controversial permit for a 240,000-square-foot Wal-Mart Supercenter at the entrance to the Wilderness

Battlefield, a law suit was filed in the County Circuit Court on behalf of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, and residents of Orange and Spotsylvania counties. "Even in the face of widespread opposition," the complaint asserts, "the Board failed to obtain critical information about the historic importance of the Wal-Mart site and the impact of approving the special use permit on the National Military Park."

At 12:55 AM on Aug. 25, the Board of Supervisors voted 5-1 to approve the permit. The final vote came at the end of a seven-hour

meeting where 100 people spoke. It was the culmination of a series of Planning Commission hearing, meetings and various votes by different subsets of the 10-member Commission between May 21 and Aug. 21.

In a Sept. 23 news release, National Trust for Historic Preservation President Richard Moe stated, "It's our obligation to challenge big-box development on this vulnerable site." He added, "The National Trust and its partners in the Wilderness Battlefield Coalition stand ready to assist Wal-Mart to find an alternative location away from the battlefield and National Park."

According to the release, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine and Speaker of the House of Delegates Bill Howell also have offered the Commonwealth's technical support to help identify an alternative site.

The site of the proposed Wal-Mart superstore, stands on unprotected land within the historic boundaries of the Wilderness Battlefield.

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.

REMINDERS

► **In memory of Betty Ridgley** and the crucial role she played in the FCCWRT, we will continue to accept contributions for the Civil War Preservation Trust through Oct. 31. Please bring a check to the October meeting made out to the CWPT or mail to: FCCWRT P.O. Box 3232 Frederick, MD 21705-3232.

► **If you haven't already paid your dues**, please remember to bring your 2009-10 annual membership dues check to the October meeting. \$30 for individuals; \$50 for families.

► **If you have an email address** and wish to receive the Banner via email, please email Board Secretary Jim Enright at jpenright@potomacadvisors.com.

2009-2010 Board of Directors

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

**FCCWRT
P.O. BOX 3232
Frederick MD
21705-3232**

For additional information:
frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org