

Banner

of the **Blue and Gray**

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

<http://frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org>



214th Meeting

September 2012

Vol. 39 Issue 1

MEET YOUR NEW BOARD



From left, Bob Kozak, Kathy Fullerton, Jim Enright, Jack Sheriff, Gail Stephens, Phil Dean, Matt Borders, and Jack Brennan

At our May meeting, we elected three new members to our FCCWRT Board of Directors: Gail Stephens, Program Chair; Kathy Fullerton, Membership Chair; and, Matt Borders, Archivist. This summer, at our annual planning meeting, the new board elected Jack Sheriff as president, replacing Donnie Toms, who retired from the board, after serving since 2006.

Jack Sheriff, President, is a resident of Middletown and has been a member of the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable since 2004, a Director since 2007, and also served as Archivist since 2009. His interest in the Civil War began as a teenager when he learned that his great-grandfather, Algernon Sidney Bailey, was a soldier in the 13th Virginia Regiment. A local Civil War historian, Jack leads driving-and-walking tours of the South Mountain and Antietam battlefields.

After 26 years with the U.S. Department of Defense, **Gail Stephens, Program Chair**, retired in 1994 as a member of the Department's Senior Executive Service. A longtime volunteer at the Monocacy National Battlefield, she gives battlefield tours and lectures on topics, including Monocacy, Maj. Gen. Lew Wallace, and the 1864 Maryland campaign. In 2002, she won the National Park Service's E.W. Peterkin award for her contributions

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September Meeting

Please note special location for the meeting

Thursday, September 20, 2012

7:30 PM

at the

**Monocacy National Battlefield
Visitor Center
5201 Urbana Pike (Route 355)
Frederick, Maryland**

Speaker: Tracy Evans

**Park Ranger, Interpreter, Curator,
Monocacy National Battlefield**

**Subject: Misconceptions of a Missing Message —
Special Orders 191**

Our Speaker

Late morning on Sept. 13, 1862, two Union soldiers found an envelope lying in a field of grass, the site of a recent Confederate encampment located near the present-day Monocacy National Battlefield. Inside the envelope were three cigars wrapped in a piece of paper— and a stunning discovery. Addressed to Confederate Gen. D. H. Hill, the paper outlined in detail Lee's troop movement orders for the Maryland Campaign.

The document was quickly dispatched to McClellan who gleefully announced, "Here is a paper with which if I cannot whip Bobbie Lee, I will be willing to go home."

Commemorating the 150th anniversary of that astonishing discovery, Tracy Evans, Park Ranger, Interpreter, and Curator

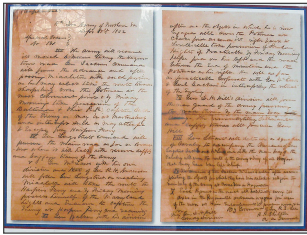


Save the Date! The once-in-a-lifetime Gardner photo exhibit opens Oct. 5 at Antietam National Battlefield

at Monocacy National Battlefield will open our 2012-2013 season with an intriguing two-part program on the significance of Lee's famous lost Special Orders 191, and the myths and misconceptions surrounding the event. Tracy will give a PowerPoint presentation and delve into one of the Civil War's best known and perhaps least understood mysteries.

A century and a half after the event, speculation and unanswered questions still swirl around the Lost Orders. How did they end up in a field in Frederick? Did General Hill lose them? Did McClellan miss a golden opportunity to quash Lee's army? Did the discovery of the orders affect the conduct or outcome of the War? Tracy will explore the facts and fallacies of this still-debated case of lost military intelligence.

Following Tracy's presentation, we will view the original Special Orders 191, on loan from the



Library of Congress, and tour Monocacy National Battlefield's new exhibit of related documents and artifacts. Included are unpublished letters from Cpl. Barton W. Mitchell and Sgt. John Bloss, the two Union soldiers who found the orders.

Tracy Evans is a Marylander through and through. Born and raised in Hagerstown, just 30 miles west of the Monocacy National Battlefield, she earned her Bachelor's degree in History from Frostburg State University, and a Master's in Historical Studies, focusing on American History, from University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Her interests are in Colonial, Civil War, and African American studies.

Tracy first came to Monocacy National Battlefield as an intern during her undergraduate studies. She returned in 1997, as a seasonal park ranger and remains as part of the battlefield's permanent staff as an interpreter and curator.

Next Month's Speaker

At our next meeting, Oct. 18, 2012, at 7:30 pm, John Hoptak, Civil War historian, author, professor, and Interpretive Park Ranger for Antietam National Battlefield and Gettysburg National Military Park, will discuss Antietam's Bloody Prelude: The Battle of South Mountain.

The Prez Sez



Greetings all! Welcome to the 2012-2013 season of the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable. My name is Jack Sheriff and I'll be attempting to fill the big shoes of our previous FCCWRT president, Donnie Toms.

I'm honored to be serving at such an exciting time with the Sesquicentennial fully underway featuring events at Manassas, Monocacy (Special Orders 191), South Mountain, Harpers Ferry, Antietam, and the Battle of Shepherdstown which closed out the Maryland Campaign of 1862. Please refer to our program speakers and topics scheduled for Sept. 20, Oct. 18, and Nov. 15 meetings, which will focus on the historic events of the 1862 Maryland Campaign.

Also, our Roundtable is the principal sponsor of a once-in-a-lifetime exhibit of Alexander Gardner's photographs of the dead but not yet buried soldiers on the Antietam Battlefield, Sept. 17, 1862. The Gardner exhibit will run from Oct. 5 to Dec. 1. Please consider volunteering at the Pry House Field Hospital and Museum which is located on the Antietam Battlefield. More on that later.

Hope to see you at all of the upcoming meetings, as well as the field events.

Jack

What we did last summer. . .



FCCWRT members answered the call to volunteer at two major Civil War Sesquicentennial events this past summer: First Call weekend in June at Hagerstown City Park, and the annual Rose Hill Manor Civil War Encampment Weekend in mid-July in Frederick. Members took shifts helping out and manning the FCCWRT's information table. Despite the extreme heat, both events drew large, enthusiastic crowds. Watch this newsletter for more opportunities to volunteer at Sesquicentennial-related events.

Antietam 150th



The weekend of Sept. 14 through Sept. 17 marks the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Antietam, known as the single bloodiest day in U.S. history and a turning point in the Maryland Campaign of 1862.

Four days after the Union's discovery of Special Orders 191 and three days after the Battle of South Mountain, the Battle of Antietam began at dawn on Sept. 17 and raged for 12 hours. By the time the last shot of the day was fired, 23,000 men were killed, wounded or missing, and neither side could claim clear victory. However, Antietam halted General Lee's first invasion of the North and gave President Lincoln the impetus to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.

The 150th anniversary of this significant battle of the Maryland Campaign will be commemorated with a host of special events, listed below, at the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg:

Sept. 14-16, Antietam Battle Reenactments

Saturday: Reenactment of the battles of Dunker Church and Bloody Lane. Sunday: The battles of Burnside Bridge and Up Comes Hill. Saturday evening dance. For information: www.150thAntietamreenactment.com.

Sept. 15 & 16, Living History, Carnival, Field Hospital

150th Anniversary of the Battle of Antietam, Soldiers Fair & Living History at Pry House Field Hospital & General McClellan's Headquarters, 11-5, featuring recreated Civil War carnival, Union Army headquarters and field hospital in the Pry Barn. For information: www.civilwarmed.org.

Sept. 15-17, Antietam Special Programs

Saturday & Sunday: Three overview "Antietam in Depth" hikes at 9 & 2; performance at 11; speakers at 10, noon, 2 & 4. Maryland Campaign 150 evening lecture with Edwin C. Bearss and James McPherson, 7 pm. Monday: Sunrise in The Cornfield hike, 6:30am; two-part all-day battlefield hike. Commemorative program with James McPherson and keynote speaker Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, 12:30; Remembrance Ceremony, Antietam National Cemetery, 3pm. For information: www.nps.gov/ancm.

Calendar of Events

Through Oct. 31, Lee's "Lost Orders" Exhibit, Frederick, MD

150th Anniversary exhibit includes Lee's Special Orders 191, on loan from Library of Congress, and related documents and artifacts, at Monocacy National Battlefield Visitor Center. For times and information: 301-662-3515, www.nps.gov/mono/index.htm.

Sept. 4, Civil War Film Premier, Frederick, MD

World premier of "Heart of the Civil War" documentary. Includes ceremony and exhibits, 7:30 pm, Weinberg Center for the Arts. Information: Frederick Visitor Center, 301-600-4047, www.heartofthecivilwar.org.

Sept. 8, Antietam Lecture, Frederick, MD

"Frederick's Role in the 1862 Maryland Campaign," with John Schildt, 7 pm, Evangelical Reformed Church of Christ. Kickoff for the National Capital Region Civil War 150th of the 1862 Maryland Campaign. For information: www.nps.gov/marylandcampaign.

Sept. 14, 150th Walking Tour, Middletown, MD

"In the Wake of War," 90-min. Civil War Walking Tour of historic Middletown, 11-4. Includes field hospitals, Union surgeons at Zion Lutheran Church. Sponsored by the South Mountain Sesquicentennial Committee. For information and timed tickets: www.marylandcampaign150.org.

Sept. 21-22, Civil War Hospital Tour, Frederick, MD

Self-guided tour of churches and other sites used as hospitals after the battles of South Mountain and Antietam. Tour organized by the National Museum of Civil War Medicine. For additional information: 301-600-4047 www.marylandcampaign150.org.

Sept. 22, 150th Emancipation Proclamation Commemorative Program, Antietam Battlefield, MD

150th Anniversary of Issuance of the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation featuring Robert G. Stanton, senior advisor to Secretary of the Department of the Interior. Keynote speaker author David W. Blight, 2 pm. For information: 301-432-5124, www.nps.gov/ancm.

Oct. 4-6, Civil War Medical Conference, Frederick, MD

20th Annual Conference on Civil War Medicine. Ten lectures, tour of Antietam hospital sites & dinner. Thursday pre-conference lecture. Admission fee. Information: 301-695-1864, ext. 12, www.CivilWarMed.org.

Oct 5-Dec.1, Gardner Photo Exhibit, Antietam, MD

Recreation of the controversial 1862 Brady Gallery exhibit of noted photographer Alexander Gardner's photos of the dead but not yet buried soldiers on the Antietam Battlefield. At the Pry House Field Hospital and Museum, located on the battlefield grounds. For additional information: www.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org.

Ramblings from the Raffle Table



Starting this season, the new face at our raffle table is Kathi Donatucci who, with Dottie's blessing, has volunteered to run the raffle table at our monthly meetings. Kathi joined the FCCWRT five years ago, after she moved here from Ohio. Growing up near the Revolutionary battlefield at Brandywine, PA, and the fact that one of her ancestors greeted the settlers arriving at Jamestown encouraged her lifelong love of history. Now in semi-retirement, she has a chance to put her love of history to work as a docent at Rose Hill Manor Museum in Frederick. She also is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and is researching the Ohio dead buried at Antietam (just for fun).

As noted on Page 1, our first meeting of the season on Sept. 20 will be held at the Monocacy National Battlefield Visitor Center. So look for Kathi at the raffle table at our Oct. 18 meeting — and give her a big welcome!

FCCWRT Board (continued from Page 1)

to public understanding of Civil War history. Gail's book on Lew Wallace, *Shadow of Shiloh*, published by the Indiana Historical Society Press in October 2010, won the Civil War Forum of New York City's William Henry Seward Award for best Civil War Biography of 2011.

Kathy Fullerton, Membership Chair, is currently serving in the US Air Force as a Bioenvironmental Engineer and was recently promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. She joined the FCCWRT two years ago when she was stationed at Fort Detrick, following a position teaching chemistry at the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO. Prior to being elected to the board, Kathy served as Membership Chair for the 2011-2012 season.

Matt Borders, Archivist, and his wife Kira, moved to Frederick five years ago for a job opening in Washington DC. For the last four years he has been an active member of the FCCWRT, enjoying the diversity of lectures and making new friends that share his passion. Matt has a B.A. in U.S. History from Michigan State University, a M.S. in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University, and is currently the staff historian for the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program.

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.

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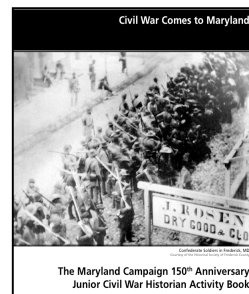
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Communications, dues, questions or comments for the Roundtable should be directed to:

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FCCWRT contributes to successful Maryland Junior Historian Activity program

FCCWRT members Phil Dean, Scott Fullerton, and Jim Enright assisted the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area in developing The Maryland Campaign 150th Anniversary Junior Civil War Historian Activity Book and program which encourages children to explore the area with their parents, learn about Maryland's rich Civil War history, and complete each activity to earn a Maryland Campaign 150th pin. To date, the program has been a rousing success, with more than 500 books given out and many pins awarded to new Junior Civil War Historians. Kudos to all!

Banner of the Blue and Gray Editor: Nancy Enright