

Banner

of the Blue and Gray

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

<http://frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org>



189th Meeting

November 2009

Vol. 36 Issue 3

A 'Few Appropriate Remarks'

The Gettysburg Address

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that this nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate...we cannot consecrate...we cannot hallow...this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us...that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

November 19, 1863

"On the way to Gettysburg, Lincoln had met an old man whose son had been killed at Little Round Top the previous July. In talking to the man Lincoln commented, 'when I think of the sacrifice yet to be offered and the hearts and homes yet to be made desolate before this dreadful war is over, my heart is like lead within me and I feel at times like hiding in a deep darkness.'

"It was in this mood that he departed Gettysburg. Lincoln had no way of knowing that the combination of Grant and Sherman in time would bring the South to its knees. He had no way of knowing that the following November, he would receive in his re-election an overwhelming vote of confidence from the people.

"And feeling as he did, he could not have dared to hope that appreciation of his 'few appropriate remarks' would grow until thousands of school boys [sic] would commit them to memory and they would become one of the classic liturgies of the democracy in which he had such faith."

— by Robert H. Fowler, *Civil War Times Illustrated*,
November 1963, Page 25

November Meeting

Date: Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009

Time: 7:30 PM

Location:

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

Speaker: Mr. Steve French

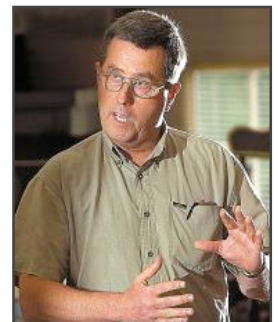
Subject: *Imboden's Brigade in the Gettysburg Campaign*

Our Speaker

Steve French, a history teacher at South Middle School in Martinsburg, WV, set out on a difficult mission when he chose to chronicle the role of little-known confederate General John D. Imboden and his brigade in the Battle of Gettysburg.

With few records to draw from, for 14 years Mr. French tirelessly researched the General's involvement with the Gettysburg campaign, uncovering as many primary sources and historical documentation as possible. He crisscrossed Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia, tracked down the Imboden's descendants, a diary by the General's brother Frank, accounts by soldiers in the brigade, and articles the General wrote after the War. His efforts culminated in his 257-page book, *Imboden's Brigade in the Gettysburg Campaign*, a well-documented, engaging account of the General's brigade during the summer of 1863.

In 2008, Mr. French was the recipient of the Bachelder-Coddington Literary Award for "the most



original and outstanding book on the Gettysburg Campaign."

In the months leading up to Gettysburg, Gen. Imboden and his raiders gained recognition when they joined forces with Brig. Gen. William E. Jones to march 400 miles through the northwestern part



of Virginia, destroying vital railroad bridges, collecting livestock, horses, and mules, and confiscating clothing and food for the starving Confederate Army.

Serving as General Robert E. Lee's rear guard in early July 1863, the brigade arrived in Gettysburg shortly before Pickett's Charge and didn't actively take part in the fighting. Their command was to lead and protect the Confederates' wagon train of thousands of wounded soldiers during Lee's long retreat from Gettysburg.

The brigade's shining hour came three days after the battle when, trapped on the banks of the Potomac, they fought off Union forces under the joint command of John Buford and Judson Kilpatrick and saved the train and wounded men.

Mr. French has also authored *The Jones-Imboden Raid against the B&O Railroad at Rowlesburg, Virginia*, and is the editor of *Four Years Along the Tiltance - The Private Diary of Elisha Manor*.

His numerous articles about the Civil War have appeared in *Gettysburg Magazine*, *North & South Magazine*, *The Southern Cavalry Review*, *Crossfire- The Magazine of the British Civil War Roundtable*, and *The Washington Times*.

Mr. French is a member of many historical organizations including the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Harpers Ferry Civil War Roundtable, The Stuart-Mosby Society, and the Berkeley County Historical Society.



Next Month's Speaker

Tasker's Chance will discuss and perform dulcimer music of America's past at our annual Christmas Party, **Thursday, December 17.**

The Prez Sez

In October Dottie and I spent a warm sunny Fall day at Antietam Battlefield, on a tour led by our own Jack Sheriff. We met new friends there who share our interest in Civil War history. We covered several sites of interest, some of which were The Cornfield, Bloody Lane and the "Burnside" Bridge with its awesome Witness Tree at its side.

Jack's tours of local battlefields, which he does periodically, will be listed in our Banner, and I would recommend going if you haven't in the past.



Jack Sheriff (left), Civil War historian and FCCWRT Board member and Archivist, discusses Antietam during his October Battlefield tour

Jack generously donates a share of proceeds to our Roundtable.

Donnie

The Bookshelf

The Complete Gettysburg Guide: Walking and Driving Tours of the Battlefield, Town, Cemeteries, Field Hospital Sites and other Topics of Historical Interest, by J. David Petruzzzi, 304 pp., 2009 Savas Beatie.

Along with 10 chapters devoted to various tours of the popular battlefield and each of the three days of fighting, the author includes tours of off-the-beaten-path sites, such as the June 26 Marsh Creek Skirmish. Well-known CWPT cartographer Steven Stanley's maps enhance the guide. An excellent addition to any Civil War library.

Loyal Hearts: Histories of American Civil War Canines, by Michael Zuccherro, illustrated with photo reproductions, 2009 Schroeder Publications.

A good read for any dog-lover, this book explores the adventures and fates, if known, of 21 dogs attached to regiments during the War including, of course, the famous Sallie, mascot of the 11th Pennsylvania Infantry, immortalized in bronze at the regiment's monument.

At our October Meeting

FCCWRT President Donnie Toms presents a check for \$250 to Robert Burton, Director of Education for the National Museum of Civil War Medicine. The check is part of NMCWM's successful campaign to raise matching funds for a \$5,000 grant from the Ausherman Family Trust for educational programs.



Our October 15th meeting was held on the eve of the 150th anniversary of John Brown's daring raid on the Union Arsenal at Harper's Ferry.

We had a great turnout for our speaker, David Shriver Lovelace, who gave us a fresh local perspective on the role of the Frederick Militia, led by Col. Edward Shriver, in ending the insurrection.

Calendar of Events

Nov. 2-Dec. 2, Abolition Exhibit, Historic Gettysburg Railroad Station, Gettysburg, PA

Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Exhibit "Free At Last: A History of the Abolition of Slavery in America." For additional information, www.gettysburg.travel.

Nov. 14 & 15, Longstreet Society 2-Day Seminar Gettysburg, PA

Longstreet Society Seminar, "Not Yet Two O'Clock: Longstreet at Gettysburg," features tours of Little Round Top and Pickett's Charge. For further details: Maria Lagonia, 914-381-2147, mlagonia@optline.net.

Nov. 15, Weapons Demonstrations, Fort Washington Park, MD, 1 & 2pm

Civil War Era Weapons Demonstrations honoring the 234th birthday of the U.S. Army Field Artillery. Admission \$5 per vehicle. Additional information: 301-763-4600.

Calendar of Events (continued)

Nov. 19, Dedication Day, Soldiers' National Cemetery, Gettysburg, PA, Wreath-laying, 9:30am; Anniversary Ceremony, 10am

Ceremony will feature actor Richard Dreyfuss, James Getty as President Lincoln, and "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band and naturalization ceremony. Sponsored by the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania, Gettysburg National Military Park, Civil War Institute of Gettysburg College. For additional information: 717-334-1124, Ext. 8023.

Nov. 19, Lincoln Program, Gettysburg, PA, 4pm

Free hour-long program, "Gettysburg Addresses Lincoln, at Gettysburg Presbyterian Church, 207 Baltimore St., where Lincoln attended a rally with John Burns following his address.

Nov. 21, Remembrance Illumination, Gettysburg, PA, 5:30-9:30pm

7th Annual Remembrance Illumination at Soldiers' National Cemetery. Lighting of more than 3,500 luminary candles. Sponsored by the Gettysburg Foundation & Friends of Gettysburg. Information: www.friendsofgettysburg.org, 717-338-1243.

Nov. 21, Dedications, Gettysburg, PA, 10am Memorial Dinner, Emmitsburg, MD, 7:30pm

Dedication ceremonies for Generals Meade & Alexander Webb monuments at Gettysburg Remembrance Day. Meet at Webb Monument, Hancock Avenue, 10am. Meade Society Memorial Dinner, Carriage House Inn, Emmitsburg, MD. For information, reservations: 215-848-7753.

Dec. 5, Civil War Symposium, Staunton, VA, 9am-4pm

"Home Front to Front Line: The Civil War Era in the Shenandoah Valley" Symposium at Mary Baldwin College. Keynote speaker Dr. Ed Ayers. \$25 fee. For information: Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, Terry Heder, 540-740-4545.

Dec. 5, Antietam Battlefield Illumination, MD, 6pm Pry House Exhibit, 11am-5pm, Keedysville, MD

Antietam Battlefield Illumination with over 23,000 candles, each representing a casualty. Driving tour begins at 6pm on Route 34 east of Sharpsburg. In the event of severe weather, Illumination will be rescheduled to Dec.12., www.nps.gov/anti. Pry House Field Hospital Museum living history, barn & house exhibit before Illumination gates open at 6pm. For information: 301-695-1864.

In the News

Wilderness vs. Wal-Mart: The battle continues



The Orange County (VA) Board of Supervisors (BOS) is seeking dismissal of a lawsuit filed Sept. 23 in the County Circuit Court by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, and six Orange County residents in an effort to override the Board's approval of a special-use permit for Wal-Mart to build a 138,000-square-foot supercenter at the entrance to the historic Wilderness Battlefield site.

The first of four counts listed in the plaintiffs' 41-page filing alleges the BOS failed to give adequate weight to the negative impact of the supercenter and that the permit was decided and granted in a "arbitrary and capricious" manner.

The Board's reply alleges each of the four counts in the plaintiffs' suit is not a valid cause of action. The BOS claims the plaintiffs lack standing because they "want to prevent use of land that they do not own, and this suit is a contrived effort to do so."

The plaintiffs plan to file an opposition to the Board's motion and await a hearing date. For in-depth details: www.wildernesswalmart.com and www.civilwarnews.com.

New Civil War Visitor Center opens in Shenandoah Valley historic district

In preparation for the 150th anniversary of the Civil War beginning in 2011, a third new visitor center opened Sept. 25 at Harrisonburg in the heart of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District. This newest center focuses on the compelling history of the many dramatic battles fought in the central Valley region including Cross Keys, Port Republic, Piedmont, and the Burning.

The center features a large map of the major battles that occurred in the Valley and a video presentation about the crucial role the Valley played in the War, from Stonewall Jackson's 1862 campaign to Philip Sheridan's 1864 destruction of the "Breadbasket of the Confederacy." For more information: www.ShenandoahAtWar.org.

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

► **NOTE: WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!**

If you have an email address but receive the *Banner* via the post office, please send your email address to Jim Enright at jpenright@potomacadvisors.com. Email saves us money, enables us to contact you immediately if necessary, and you can enjoy the Banner in color. Be assured that your email address will not be shared with anyone.

► If you haven't already paid your annual dues, please remember to bring your membership check to our November meeting. Individuals, \$30; families, \$50.

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Frederick MD 21705-3232

For additional information:

frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org