

Banner

of the **Blue and Gray**

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

<http://frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org>



210th Meeting

February 2012

Vol. 38 Issue 6

FCCWRT News

Mark Your Calendars! *Special Extra Meeting for Members and Friends*

When: Tues., March 27, at 7:30 pm

Where: Bjorlee Museum, on the campus of
the Maryland School for the Deaf,
101 Clarke Place, Frederick, MD



Linsay Darnell

FCCWRT members and their guests have been invited to a special program hosted by Chad Baker, director of the new Bjorlee Museum, and featuring Linsay Darnell, a deaf Civil War reenactor who will give us a special presentation on "Deaf Soldiers in the Civil War." Mr. Darnell will discuss both Union and Confederate deaf soldiers, based upon his research of unit records, personal letters and official documents. He will give his program using sign language that will be interpreted for us by a sign language translator. Following Mr. Darnell's talk, Director Baker will give a brief overview of the Bjorlee Museum's displays related to Frederick's history. Look for more details in our March *Banner*.

You won't want to miss this special event!

FCCWRT Wins Grant for Civil War Trails Marker

The FCCWRT was awarded a \$1,300 grant to fund the installation of a Civil War Trails Marker at the approximate location of the Battle of Frederick on July 7 and 8, 1864. The marker will be situated in the parking lot of the Red Horse Restaurant on US 40 (the Golden Mile/Patrick Street), which was a farmer's field during the Civil War.

(Continued on Page 3, see **FCCWRT Marker**)

February Meeting

Happy Valentine's Day

Thursday, February 16, 2012

7:30 PM

at the

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

**Speaker: John Reid
Park Ranger, Historian
Manassas National Battlefield Park**

**Subject: *How the two Battles of Manassas
influenced the War***

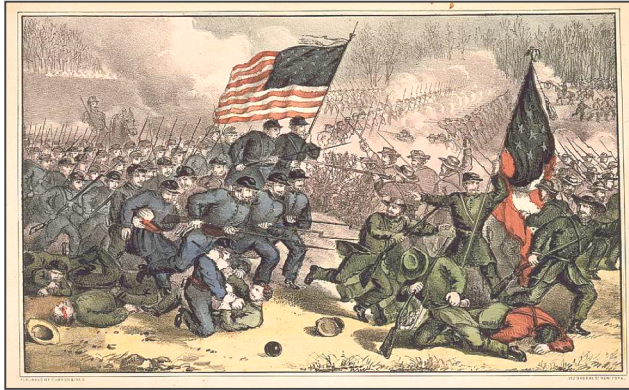
Our Speaker

Manassas National Battlefield has the distinction of being the site of two battles of the Civil War — both major battles, both with significant ramifications. Park Ranger and Interpreter John Reid will discuss the two battles of Manassas and their implications for the outcome of the War. An expert in military history, John has been a park ranger at military parks for 22 years including the past 12 years at Manassas National Battlefield Park.

Both Battles of Manassas, known in Union circles as Bull Run, were crushing defeats for the Union. The 1st Manassas occurred early in the War in July 1861 and was a watershed event that alerted Lincoln and everyone else that this conflict indeed was not going to be over any time soon.



The 2nd Manassas at the end of August 1862, was the culmination of a series of fierce but scattered clashes that came to a head when Lee's forces under Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson raided Union Gen. John Pope's supply depot at Manassas Junction. Beginning August 28, three days of brutal fighting ensued. Jackson's forces held and by nightfall on August 30, the Union Army withdrew.



2nd Battle of Bull Run, August 29, 1862, Currier & Ives

In both battles, the outnumbered Confederates won victories on Manassas Plain that humiliated and humbled two Union armies, forcing their retreat back toward Washington — and frustrating the Union's hopes of bringing the Confederacy to heel in the region. John will explore the repercussions of these two conflicts and how each was a game-changer for the course of the War.

Along with his years at Manassas National Battlefield, John has served at military history parks in Morristown, NJ; Fort McHenry, MD; and, Horseshoe Bend, AL. John also is historic weapons supervisor and inspector for the National Park Service, Washington, D.C., and region, and is an NPS-wide instructor in historic weapons safety.

John majored in military history at Norwich University in Vermont. He has published articles on Andrew Jackson and the Creek War of 1814, the battles of Bull Run (or Manassas), and wrote a thesis on the Russian fleet's visit to the Union during the War. He collects military memorabilia, with concentration on World War I. John lives in Columbia with his wife, Ella, and son, John Thomas.

Next Month's Speaker

At our next meeting, March 15, 2012, at 7:30 pm, Dr. Dean Herrin, National Park Service Historian, Coordinator, Catocin Center for Regional Studies will discuss the new "Crossroads of War" Civil War website.

The Prez Sez



Members, as you see in our *Banner* article on Page 1, the FCCWRT has been invited by our friends at the Maryland School for the Deaf to have a special FCCWRT meeting at their Bjorlee Museum on the grounds of the School. Civil War reenactor Linsay Darnell, who is deaf, will sign the lecture which will be translated for us. Sounds really interesting, and will certainly give us yet a different perspective on the War.

This museum is open "by appointment only," so this will be an ideal opportunity for you to visit this relatively new museum in Frederick City. Put an extra mark on your calendar for Tuesday, March 27, at 7:30 pm. Tell your family and friends and bring them along to the special meeting. See you there.

I hope you enjoy all of our scheduled lectures for this New Year.

Happy Valentines' Day 2012 to you and your loved ones!

Donnie

Civil War Medal of Honor Service Remembers Decatur Dorsey

Antietam Camp #3, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, will sponsor a Civil War Medal of Honor Remembrance Service on March 24 at 10 a.m. at the Quinn Chapel of the A.M.E. Church, 106 East 3rd St., Frederick. The service will honor 1st Sgt. Decatur Dorsey — born a slave in Howard County — who was awarded the Medal of Honor for "extraordinary heroism on July 30, 1864, while serving with Company B, 39th USCT" as color bearer during the Battle of the Crater at Petersburg, VA.

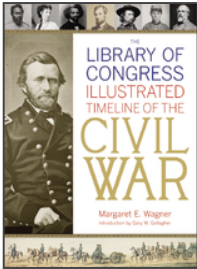


Dorsey enlisted as a private in the US Colored Infantry in March 1864 at age 25 and was quickly promoted to corporal. At the Battle of the Crater, he planted his colors on the Confederate works in advance of his regiment. When his unit was forced to pull back, he retrieved the flag and rallied the men for another charge. Two days later he was promoted to 1st sergeant. Dorsey served to the end of the War and lived to age 55.

The ceremony will include a short worship service, a procession, and honors and taps, followed by an "off the menu" meal at Brewer's Alley. All FCCWRT members and friends are welcome.

The Bookshelf

The Library of Congress Illustrated Timeline of the Civil War, by Margaret E. Wagner. Illustrations, photos, bibliography, notes, index, 254 pp., 2011, Little Brown and Co., New York, NY.



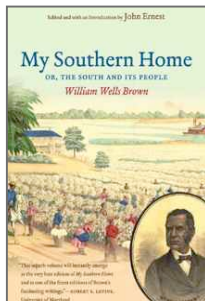
If you plan to buy only one book during the Sesquicentennial, this is the one to buy. Margaret Wagner, senior writer-editor for the Library of Congress Publishing Office, brings the timeline of the Civil War to life, both in pictures and in riveting first-person accounts from journalists, soldiers and nurses, all eyewitnesses to the devastating impact of war.

Much more than a beautiful coffee table book, this is a rare treasure including drafts of Lincoln's speeches in his own handwriting, portraits of soldiers and politicians not found in standard Civil War books, and much more.

Drawing upon the vast resources of the Library of Congress, the author has imaginatively organized the book with more than 350 extraordinary photographs and presented a fascinating day-by-day annotated account of each year of the War that has earned high praise from literary critics and Civil War scholars alike.

My Southern Home or, The South and Its People, by William Wells Brown. Illustrations, notes, index, bibliography, 304 pp., 2011, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC.

Until slave-born William Wells Brown escaped from his owner in 1834 at age 20, his life was like any other slave of the era. But he blossomed into a successful novelist, journalist and playwright, who is considered to be the first African American to write a novel, published in England in 1853. After purchasing his freedom in 1854, Brown returned to America and became an outspoken abolitionist who lectured widely but was overshadowed by Frederick Douglass, his contemporary.



In this, Brown's final book published in 1880, he writes from the perspective of a freed slave of the stark realities of life in the South with all of its atrocities and injustices. Distinguished professor and author John Ernest offers readers an exceptionally well-edited edition of this work with extensive annotations that clarify Brown's writing, as well as a 35-page scholarly introduction that gives context to Brown's work in terms of its place in American literature as well as its historical significance.

My Southern Home is a revealing study of the South from pre- to post-War and beyond — and is invaluable reading for anyone interested in American history.

Calendar of Events

Thru February, NPS Lecture Series, 1:30pm, Gettysburg, PA

National Park Service Winter Lecture Series on Saturday and Sunday afternoons at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center. Free. This year's theme, "War in Ernest: The Civil War in 1862." For further information, visit www.gettysburgfoundation.org.

Feb. 23, Civil War Class, 6:30-9:45 pm, Westminster, MD

"Forts Henry and Donelson: Keys to the Southern Confederacy," Carroll Community College, David Booz, instructor. \$35. For more information: 410-386-8100, www.carrollcc.edu/instantenrollment.

Feb. 25, Lecture, 4pm, Clinton, MD

"Harriett Tubman — Meet the Amazing Woman" with Gwendolyn Briley-Strand, Surratt House Museum. Free. For information: 301-868-1121, <http://surratt.org/>.

Mar. 6, Civil War Class, 6:30-9:45 pm, Westminster, MD

"Artillery in the Civil War" class, Carroll Community College, David Booz, instructor. \$35. Information: 410-386-8100, www.carrollcc.edu/instantenrollment.

Mar. 9-11, Honors Weekend, Gettysburg, PA

American Living History Education Society weekend honoring living historians & reenactors. Free breakfast & seminars; dance, \$10/person. Information: www.alhes.com.

FCCWRT Marker (Continued from Page 1)

According to Patsy Ensminger, Operations Director of the Tourism Council of Frederick County, the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area Advisory Board voted to approve our grant in "an extremely competitive round" in which requests totaled more than twice the amount available for distribution.

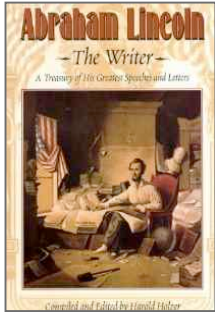
In accordance with the terms of the grant, the total cost of the project is \$2,600 and the FCCWRT will match the balance of the needed funds with a \$1,300 contribution. Additionally, we will fund annual maintenance costs of the marker of \$200. Our share of the funding will be drawn from the income of membership dues and our monthly raffles. We are also planning future community fund-raising activities to replace these funds so we can continue projects promoting a better understanding of Frederick County's Civil War heritage.

The grant will be awarded at our February meeting, and we will present our matching contribution.

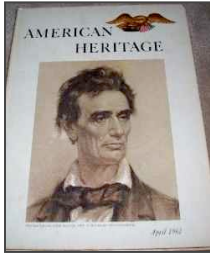
This project is being coordinated by Bob Kozak with the able assistance of Jack Sheriff, Gail Stephens and Jim Enright.

Ramblings from the Raffle Table

Friends, at February's meeting, the three drawings for our Special Raffle FCCWRT caps will be held. If you haven't yet purchased your tickets, please do so before the meeting. It's your last chance for the caps!



As always, there will be another fun selection of prizes in our 50-Cent Raffle, including Lincoln-related reading such as *Abraham Lincoln, the Writer* by Harold Holzer and an *American Heritage* magazine with a very young Lincoln on the cover. We'll also have "Soft Hearts" fabric pins, and several Civil War Illustrated magazines published in 1968. I know you're curious — come and see what we have!



Happy Valentine's Day, and I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Raffle Table!

Dottie

FCCWRT announces Membership Coordinator

If you've been to a recent meeting, you've probably noticed a new face behind the sign-in table. This year one of our new members, Kathy Fullerton, has volunteered to take over the duties of membership coordination. A Major in the US Air Force, Kathy is a recent transplant to Frederick County, having moved here last year from Colorado Springs where she was an Assistant Professor at the US Air Force Academy. She currently serves as a Bioenvironmental Engineer at Fort Detrick.



When she's not volunteering for our Round Table, Kathy is also actively involved in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) outreach activities in Frederick. In her free time she enjoys biking (you might see her riding to work!), and hiking and photography with her husband, Scott.

Kathy is excited to be involved with the Round Table and has done a great job updating our membership lists and recruiting new members. Welcome, Kathy!

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.

2011-2012 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

www.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org

At last month's meeting . . .



We had an excellent turnout for NMCWM's Director of Research Terry Reimer, who gave us a fascinating presentation on surgeons of the

Civil War — based on her recent book, *Bad Doctors: Military Justice Proceedings Against 622 Civil War Surgeons*, co-authored with Thomas P. Lowry. Ms. Reimer gave us a revealing portrait of surgeons behaving badly that was surprising, even shocking, and at times amusing.

Banner of the Blue and Gray Editor: Nancy Enright