

Banner

of the **Blue and Gray**

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

<http://frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org>



228th Meeting

December 2013

Vol. 40 Issue 4

Our December speaker is local author Gary Dyson from Mt. Airy.



December Meeting

Thursday, Dec 19,
6:45 Holiday Party,
7:00 Speaker

National Museum of
Civil War Medicine,
48 E. Patrick St.,
Frederick, MD

Topic: Civil War correspondent Albert Gaius Hills of the Boston Journal

Between November 1861 and May 1862, Hills covered the Union campaign which resulted in the seizure of New Orleans for the *Journal*. Mr. Dyson transcribed and annotated Hills' own journals and reports of the campaign for his book, *A Civil War Correspondent in New Orleans*. Mr. Dyson will bring Hills' journals plus maps, newspapers and artifacts from Ft. Jackson for display. He will also have copies of his book for sale.

Gary Dyson is Design Engineer for Charles P. Johnson and Associates, a retired Environmental Specialist from the city of Gaithersburg, and a former Marine. He has a BS in Natural Resources from Oregon State University. Though never his avocation, history has always been his passion, from studying the great battlefields of American history to researching personal genealogies, and started a genealogy business. Reading and collecting historic newspapers is his latest hobby. He lives in Mount Airy with his wife and daughter. *A Civil War Correspondent in New Orleans* is his first book.

Our Annual Holiday Feast

We will have our traditional holiday buffet as part of the December meeting.

The Roundtable will provide drinks and the plates, cups, and tableware. Members are asked to bring a "snack dish" or a dessert to share with others.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS YEAR THE BUFFET WILL START AT 6:45. THIS IS BEFORE THE SPEAKER!



Next Month's Speaker

Our January speaker will be Rick Slade, the new superintendent of Frederick's own Monocacy National Battlefield. His topic is "Monocacy National Battlefield, the Sesquicentennial and Beyond."



The Prez Sez

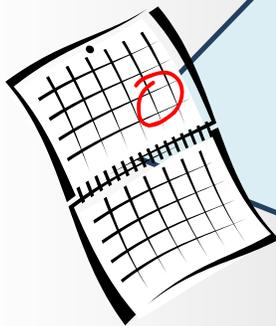
As you read this column your Thanksgiving is already several days in the past, and I hope it was joyful and satisfying for you and your family.

But, what about 150 years ago, what happened then?

Well, on Oct. 3, 1863, six weeks before the Gettysburg Address was delivered President Abraham Lincoln in an effort to boost the country's morale, knowing full that the great conflict was not over and many hardships were still ahead, designated the last Thursday of November as a national day of thanksgiving. He concluded his message to the country as follows.....

"...the last Thursday of each November shall be a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens"

Jack



The Civil War Round Table of Greater Boston has extended an invitation for our members to join them on their *Four Days In May* Trip, May 15-18, 2014. Please visit www.cwrtgb.com under the **Four Days In May link.**

Ramblings from the Raffle Table

Happy Holidays!

Our December meeting is always so much fun and our Raffle Table is joining in! In lieu of our usual assortment of books, there will be just one grand prize: a gift basket filled with goodies for the Civil War enthusiast and family. Nestled in the basket will be a General Lee character jug, note cards, home baked goodies and other surprises. You will definitely want to get in on this raffle!



So don your Santa necktie or flashiest Christmas sweater and we'll see you at the Raffle Table.

Thanking you for your generous support throughout the year,

Kathi

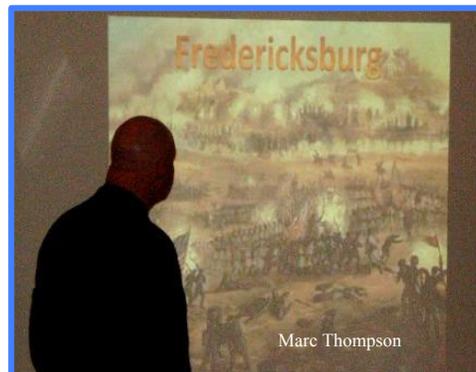


A member grabs what just might be the winning ticket in last month's raffle.

At Last Month's Meeting...

At November's FCCWRT meeting, Frank A. O'Reilly, historian with Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park spoke on "Fredericksburg: From Stonewall to Stone Wall". The 34 people in attendance enjoyed the thought provoking talk and more than one of us walked away with a changed opinion of General Ambrose Burnside!

Kathy Fullerton, Membership Chair



FCCWRT Winter Weather Policy



Sadly, winter storm season is upon us. Due to foul weather conditions, we may need to cancel our monthly meeting. If Frederick County Schools and/or the National Museum of Civil War Medicine (meeting location) announce closures for the afternoon/evening of the meeting our meeting will be cancelled. We will make every attempt to send an email notification as soon as the cancellation decision is made. Please use your best judgment in making safety your top priority.

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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