



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

283d Meeting

January 2020

Volume 46, Issue # 5

January 16, 2020 7:00 PM National Museum of Civil War Medicine 48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland



Speaker: Craig Swain

Presentation Overview: "The Siege and Reduction of Fort Sumter"

Siege and Reduction of Fort Sumter - The Civil War's Longest Battle
Fort Sumter is known for its famous battle marking the start of the Civil War. But the campaign to control it, and thus Charleston, played out from the opening weeks of the war right through the final days of the conflict. This grueling, sustained effort is often forgotten in our studies today, yet was at the fore of newspaper accounts of the war. Over the course of forty-six months, Federals sought to regain control of the fort... or failing that to reduce it. Meanwhile the Confederates worked just as hard to maintain their presence at the mouth of Charleston harbor. The battle featured three major bombardments, seven minor bombardments, and

countless "skirmishes" involving the heaviest artillery used during the war. The effort against Fort Sumter was an important part in the greater war effort, both North and South.

Biography:

Craig Swain is a graduate of Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri, with a BA in history. Commissioned in the Army after college, he served in Korea, Kuwait, various overseas postings, and Fort Stewart, Georgia. After leaving the Army, he continued his studies at Missouri State University. He is the author of numerous articles appearing in Civil War Times, America's Civil War, Artilleryman, and other magazines. His blog, "To the Sound of the Guns," covers various aspects of the war, but with focus on artillery and the Charleston theater of war. Craig is presently an information technology manager for the Internal Revenue Service.

In Case You Missed It.....



Speaker: Dr. Joseph Thomas

Presentation Overview: “Leadership Lessons from the Civil War”

The Frederick County Civil War Roundtable once again hosted its monthly roundtable program at our home ground, at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine. December featured author and Historian Dr. Joseph Thomas, who offered members and guests his presentation of “Leadership Lessons from the Civil War”. Years of study and volumes of authored works have prepared him to present on the many facets of leadership, both the triumphs and challenges facing Commanders and leaders of all stripes which shaped our history so dramatically. Dr. Thomas’ purpose was to elicit reflection from the audience about leadership, and how we can apply today those numerous lessons learned during the Civil War and past American history.

The vehicle to place ourselves in the shoes of those leaders that have gone before is the military style “Staff Ride”, used since the time of Alexander the Great, through Napoleon to this day. Dr. Thomas accurately pointed out the American Civil War Battlefield marvelously suited to learning the lessons of history is the Gettysburg Battlefield, owing both to the magnificent state of preservation and the volumes of known stories, challenges and triumphs that occurred there. The audience was led through all three parts of a “Staff Ride” event; the preparation, the battlefield tour (by stands tailored to imparting lessons) and the reflections on lessons learned. Tremendously well received, a unique and special event for our members and our guests.





Prez Sez

Welcome one and all to 2020! As we dive into the new year, we have a great series of programs lined up for you. To kick us off this January we have none other than Craig Swaine! Craig runs the Civil War history blog, "To the Sound of the Guns" (<https://markerhunter.wordpress.com/about/>) a great resource for all sorts of Civil War related articles. Craig is also an Editor Emeritus for the Historic Marker Database, which I use all the time when looking for fun facts and snippets about different places. Craig is going to be speaking about the longest battle of the American Civil War, the Siege of Charleston!

As the next round table season approaches, the board and myself have begun to receive requests from different speakers around the region. We have already been hard at work setting up the 2020-2021 schedule, but if there is a specific speaker or topic you really want to hear, let us know and we will do what we can to bring them in.

Finally, as we are coming off the holiday season and entering the new year, the Frederick County Civil War Round Table Board and myself would like to wish each of you and your families a Happy New Year. We hope you are able to share this time of year with those most important to you and we look forward to sharing new discoveries and discussions in Civil War history throughout 2020.

Season's Greetings to you and yours,

~ *Matt Borders*

Book Review

Kevin Levin, *Searching for Black Confederates: The Civil War's Most Persistent Myth*. 240pp. Images, notes. \$30.00 (hardcover), ISBN:1469653265 Reviewed by Matthew A. D. Borders

Kevin Levin has written a new and fascinating work on one of the longest running controversies of the American Civil War, the black Confederate soldier. *Searching for Black Confederates: The Civil War's Most Persistent Myth*, takes this controversy head on. Diving into the structure of the Confederate government, the military and the foundations on which they were built. *Searching for Black Confederates* is well written and researched, and will make you think on the differences in 19th and 21st century culture.

If the authors name sounds familiar to you, that's because Mr. Levin is the proprietor of the Civil War Memory blog (<http://cwmemory.com/blog/>). Having bounced around on this blog for several years, I was familiar with black Confederates being a topic of interest and research for him. So, it was little surprise when this book was announced last winter, it has been a long time coming.

The crux of Kevin Levin's argument is not there were no African Americans on the battles of the Civil War besides those in the United States Colored Troops (USCT), his point is that there were, often thousands, of African Americans on or near the battlefields of the war, but it is their status that needs to be considered. For example, it is documented that both the contending armies used African Americans for a wide variety of jobs around the camps and on the march. These included, but were not limited to, cooks, launderers,

teamsters, and general assistance. The issue is how / why they were there and were they actually enlisted in the military.

Many thousands of African Americans in Confederate camps were camp slaves, a term Mr. Levin used extensively in the book. They were brought with their masters or perhaps coerced into serving the Confederate army in the field. In addition, there were likely hundreds of freedmen that were hired to assist the army, such as teamsters. This same practice existed in the Union army, especially as it moved further and further into slave territory and thousands were fleeing to Union lines. The issue at hand is would these working men and women be considered soldiers? In today's military very possibly. While we still have civilian employees in the United States Military, we also have whole branches of said military that deal specifically with the logistics of the operating that military. During the American Civil War that was not the case, while the Quartermasters Department and other logistical departments did exist, they had very small professional military staffs, even during the war. They hired civilians to do much of the support work for the armies in the field. In the Confederacy they also hired (from their masters) or impressed the enslaved.

So many of the individuals we would consider as part of the military today, would not have been considered part of the military in the 1860's. That is true for camp slaves as well. They were present, they shared many of the same hardships and were sometimes even under fire. Their masters, and indeed the Confederate Government however did not consider them to be soldiers. The Confederacy did not believe in arming African Americans until almost the end of the war, March of 1865. Before that the debate of arming the enslaved had been going on for about a year, but the Confederacy waited to take that step until it did not matter anymore. The war was lost.

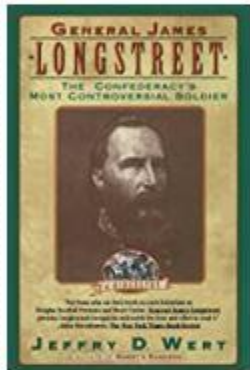
One of the fascinating aspects of *Searching for Black Confederates* is seeing how the myth was used not only during Reconstruction and the Jim Crow era, to paint a picture of a peaceful, idyllic antebellum, but by the Union during the war! One of the fears of abolitionists was that the Confederacy would beat them to the punch, and offer freedom for service to the enslaved first! Pillars of the abolitionist community such as Frederick Douglass even printed stories in his paper, The North Star, of supposed black Confederate soldiers firing at the Union. Stories like this were emphatically denied by the Confederate government, and were used by northern abolitionists to push for African American enlistment.

They have also become the basis for much of the black Confederate mythology today. Even here in Frederick, Maryland this confusion exists. Dr. Lewis Steiner of the United States Sanitary Commission was in Frederick in 1862 when the Army of Northern Virginia rolled through. He claimed then that there were 3,000 armed African Americans in the ranks of Lee's army. No such military organization of African Americans existed in 1862, north or south. These were likely camp slaves moving together within the mass of Lee's forces. They may have been carrying their masters arms, or had even got their own for hunting purposes, but they were not fighting.

This story, and others like it, as well as the content slave myth of the Jim Crow era, have been used and continue to be used by a wide variety of Confederate Heritage organizations. Following the Centennial of the war there were a number of successful broadcasts such as *Roots*, *Glory* and the Ken Burns *Civil War* documentary that began to look at the broader picture of the war and placed slavery in a central context for why the war occurred. It was at this point that the Confederate Heritage community began to open itself up to the idea of black Confederates in an attempt to take the focus of the war off slavery and to diversify their membership. This has had only limited success, but by continuing to single out enslaved individuals for new headstones and military honors, it further confuses reality with fantasy.

Searching for Black Confederates is not a Confederate bashing book, but instead is an in-depth study of a real issue within the Civil War community. I highly recommend this book for anyone who is interested in the idea of black Confederates, Reconstruction or how the war and the Lost Cause continue to impact our lives today.

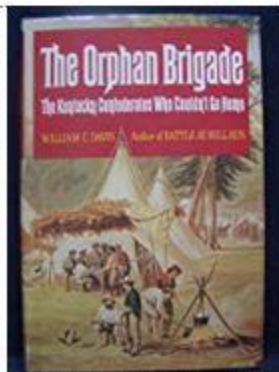
Book Raffle for January



General James Longstreet

Jeffrey D. Wert

Some Southern partisans have, perhaps unfairly, blamed Longstreet for the Confederate defeat at Gettysburg; Wert corrects the record here. He is not uncritical of Longstreet's record, but suggests that if Lee had listened to Longstreet, the battle's outcome may have been different. Jeffrey D. Wert is the author of many previous books on civil war topics and his articles and essays on the war have appeared in many publications. Wert is a former history teacher at Penns Valley High School and resides in Centre Hall, PA.



The Orphan Brigade: The Kentucky Confederates Who Couldn't Go Home

William C. Davis

Davis' "The Orphan Brigade" accurately portrays the trial of war, the pain of suffering from separation from family, the toll of disease and loss as well as the excitement that came from participation in battle. Davis has written a gripping story of the rebel troops whose tenacity was noted throughout the Confederacy. Davis' easy style and inclusion of key maps and pictures adds to the enjoyment of this book.

Nearby December Events

(For any event listed please remember to confirm it's happening before hitting the road.)

21 December, 2019 - Lecture, "Christmas and the Civil War". Held at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 2:30 pm. Free with admission. civilwarmed.org/event/christmas

Seminars, Conferences and Upcoming Tours

11 January - Lecture, "Invisible Wounds: A Perspective on Mental Health Issues During the Civil War," Hosted at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 2:30 pm. Free with admission. civilwarmed.org/event/invisiblewounds

11 January - 22 March Gettysburg Winter Lecture Series: National Park Service rangers and leading historians from across the country offer free hour-long talks exploring important aspects of the American Civil War and the Battle of Gettysburg. Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center, Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 pm (Free of charge). **Sat. January 11 – Ranger Matt Atkinson** ~ Freemasonry at Gettysburg: Fraternal Bonds Tested by Battle; **Sun. January 12 – Ranger Bert Barnett** ~ Gettysburg – Recovery, Memorialization, Preservation, & Commercialization; **Sat. January 18 – Historian Codie Eash** ~ Pray for Oblivion to His Memory: Frederick Douglass on the Legacy of Robert E. Lee; **Sun. January 19 – Prof. Kent Gramm** ~ Gettysburg: The Living and the Dead; **Sat. January 25 – Ranger Steve Phan** ~ The Defenses of Washington during the Gettysburg Campaign; **Sun. January 26 – Historian John Heiser** ~ Neglected Heroes of Gettysburg: The Army Mule.

25 January - Lecture, "Private Confederacies: The Emotional Worlds of Southern Men as Citizens and Soldiers," Held at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 2:30 pm. Free with admission. civilwarmed.org/event/private-confederacies

8 February - Lecture, "One Vast Hospital — Downtown Frederick's Civil War Hospital," Held at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 2:30 pm. Free with admission. civilwarmed.org/event/onevasthospital-talk

The Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College (CWI) would like to offer the members of Frederick County Civil War Roundtable a **15% discount** to attend the CWI Summer Conference from **June 12-17, 2020**. You can find registration details about our conference on our [website](#) and the full schedule of [events](#). We believe in your mission, and we are making this special offer to recognize the efforts of your organization in promoting the study of Civil War history.



2020 Summer Conference

Join us **June 12-17, 2020**, for an exciting program of CWI speakers! We are thrilled to feature leading Civil War scholars **Harold Holzer, Catherine Clinton, Brian Wills, Jeffery Wert, Carol Reardon, and Scott Hartwig** within our lineup of more than 35 distinguished speakers and tour guides.

Full-time and part-time packages available!

SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS	TOUR HIGHLIGHTS	ROUNDTABLE & DEBATE HIGHLIGHTS
• Harold Holzer and Catherine Clinton, <i>Mary Todd Lincoln</i> • Brian Wills, <i>General George Thomas</i> • Megan Kate Nelson, <i>The Civil War in the West</i> • Nina Silber, <i>Northern Women at War</i> • David Gerleman, <i>Unknown Lincoln Treasures from the National Archives</i> • Kevin Levin, <i>Black Confederates</i>	• <i>First Moments</i> • <i>2nd Fredericksburg and Salem Church</i> • <i>The Evolution of the Charge in the Civil War: Bristoe Station, Mory's Heights, and the Mule Shoe</i> • <i>Antietam: A Staff Ride</i> • <i>Special Saturday evening Gettysburg battlefield tour for youth attendees & their families with guides Ethan Refuse, Eric Mink, Keith Behanum, Jennifer Murray, Carol Reardon, and Peter Carmichael</i>	• <i>The Civil War Letters of the North's Rank and File</i> • <i>Debating McClellan at Antietam</i> • <i>Debating the Generalship of General Nathan Bedford Forrest</i> • <i>Behind-the-Scenes of Licensed Battlefield Guiding at Gettysburg</i> • <i>Debating James Longstreet</i>

Register now at www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/

2020 CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE

Summer Conference

JUNE 12 - 17, 2020

For more than 35 years, the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College has hosted a **premier annual summer conference** bringing leading historians and diverse public audiences from across the country and around the world together for **lectures, battlefield tours, small group discussions, and roundtable conversations** about the Civil War era. Sessions, lodging, and meals are held on the 200-acre college campus.

The 2020 CWI Conference will feature a wide range of topics, including **POW prison escapes, soldier impressment, the Civil War guerrilla experience**, and more. The 2020 program will also debut a **new conference element** featuring **debates** between leading scholars about Civil War generalship.

Participants will also have the opportunity to **visit a variety of other nearby battlefields** and historic sites on tours that will explore Spotsylvania, Cool Springs, and more. Those who may prefer a shorter, more physically active conference experience can choose to sign up for our new **"active track"** package, featuring a combination of Friday and Saturday morning lectures and a day and a half of walking-intensive tours of the Gettysburg battlefield on Saturday and Sunday with historian Timothy Orr.

CWI's relaxed vibe and diverse programming ensures that the 2020 summer conference will offer something for everyone, from longtime students of the Civil War to those who are new to Civil War history.



CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

300 North Washington St.
Campus Box 435
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325-1400

717-337-6590
civilwar@gettysburg.edu
www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/

Discounts are available for K-12 teachers, students age 18+, public historians, veterans/active duty members of the US Armed Forces, and Gettysburg College alumni. All individuals under 18 years of age qualify for half-price tuition. (Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Please see registration page for more details about this package). This year, we are also pleased to offer discounts to members of numerous partnering institutions, including Civil War Round Tables, local museums, historical societies, and Civil War periodicals. If you think you may qualify for any of the above discounts, please contact the CWI office for the appropriate discount code.

Volunteer Opportunities

Mount Olivet Cemetery needs your help! Currently the dedicated team of researchers at the cemetery is trying to profile each of their Civil War burials. If you would like to help with this ongoing research project please join us at the Mount Olivet Mausoleum and Office on Thursday, March 12th at 1:30 pm. For questions, contact the research coordinator, Larry Moore at ltmfrmc1863y@verizon.net.

Interested in volunteering to keep the FCCWRT running and growing? Let us know at a meeting or send an email to our President Matt Borders (mattborders@comcast.net). Areas of need are listed below. We will have board elections at the end of the season for members interested in leadership positions.

Areas in which to assist the Round Table:

Programs (help with acquiring possible speakers, field trips, etc.)

Website (maintain and update group's website)

Outreach, Marketing, Newsletter, Others

Who We Are, Where to Find Us



We are on Facebook! Please check out our page for timely updates, local events, or comments. Please read and share our posts!

<https://m.facebook.com/fccwrt>. Gary Dyson is our "face" for Facebook,

Help us spread the word about OUR FCCWRT!! 365 followers !

Join Facebook. Share posts with friends! You'll get more timely notice of events when you check us out on Facebook. Post things you'd like to share!

2019-2020 Board of Directors

Matt Borders, President /Webmaster, mborders@comcast.net

Gary Dyson, Vice President, garyldyson@gmail.com

Bob Kozak, Treasurer, 301-644-1396 kzagr@aol.com

Todd Morris, Secretary, Newsletter, todd.b.morris@gmail.com

Lucy Tannozzini, At Large, llucyzzini@yahoo.com

Jack Sheriff, At Large, 301-371-4148 jbsheriff1@comcast.net

Joe Collins, At Large, froggyjoe@aol.com

Tom Dumm, At Large, thomas.dumm@obg.com

Bob Smart, At Large, cwfan@monocacy.com

For questions, comments or dues, contact:

FCCWRT

P.O. Box 3232, Frederick MD 21705-3232

www.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org

Looking Ahead

Please join us for our next session, on 20 February for "The Tale Untwisted: George McClellan and the Discovery of Lee's Lost Orders, September 13, 1862" by Alexander B. Rossino. 6:45 PM at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine on East Patrick Street.

Our 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.

Our membership drive for the 2019-20 season is in full swing. Please consider renewing your membership as well inviting friends to join. Your membership provides the space for our meetings, attracting well known speakers, and website and P.O. Box maintenance.

For those who remembered to renew your FCCWRT membership, thank you! Your dues make it possible for us to continue to fulfill our mission. We can't continue without your support! If we had more members we could do more to promote our Civil War history!

As a member of our group, you'll enjoy these benefits:

- receive the current newsletter
- receive email updates of local events related to Civil War history
- always have a place to be on the third Thursday of the month

Our yearly dues are:

- \$30.00 for an individual
- \$50.00 for a family up to four
- \$5.00 for out of state members and members under 16 years of age

You can renew your membership at our meeting or by mail. The membership form is attached and may also be downloaded from our website at <http://www.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org/>.

NEW *or* RENEW ANNUAL FCCWRT MEMBERSHIP



NAME (If family membership, please list all names and email addresses)

STREET ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS/ADDRESSES

BEST PHONE NUMBER TO REACH ME

NOTE: *We will protect your privacy. None of the above information will be shared.*

ANNUAL DUES: Individual - \$30; Family - \$50 (Please make check payable to FCCWRT)

AMOUNT PAID \$ _____ DATE _____

- ☐ I would like to volunteer to assist with registration and other tasks at our monthly meetings
- ☐ I am interested in helping with outreach activities

MAIL TO:
FCCWRT
Box 3232
Frederick, MD 21701

For additional information about the FCCWRT and to see meeting dates and times
and our roster of speakers for the season, check our website:

www.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org