

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

286th Meeting\*

April 2020

Volume 46, Issue #8

# May 21, 2020 7:00 PM Pending Board "Go/No-Go" decision May 4 National Museum of Civil War Medicine 48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland



Speaker: Presentation by Mr. Mark Dudrow

**Title:** The Civil War exploits of Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Potomac Home Brigade Cavalry (Cole's Cavalry)

**Short Summary:** Mark will recount the Civil War history of the 1st Potomac Home Brigade Cavalry, "Cole's Cavalry" was formed under the guidance of Henry A. Cole (from Frederick, Maryland). Mark's ancestral ties to Company C of that Brigade run from Abraham Dern (pictured below and

right), but Mark will focus on the raising and exploits of Company A, raised out of our own Frederick, Maryland. Companies A, B, C & D were raised throughout Maryland.

**Biography:** Mr. Mark Dudrow lives with his wife, Sharon, in Summit Point, WV. He is retired from Fairfax County Fire and Rescue and Frederick County (Virginia) Fire and Rescue. He presently

works part time as a firefighter at Summit Point Raceway. Mark has been interested in the Civil War since learning of his Great-Great Grandfather, Abraham Dern, serving in Cole's Cavalry. He has done, and continues to do, much research on the subject. Mark recently wrote and had published a book on Company C of Cole's Cavalry entitled "The Keystone Rangers". It is a print on demand book through the Book Patch and can be ordered online. Proceeds for the book go to the Shriver House in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. George Shriver served in Company C and died in Andersonville Prison. Mark and his horse "Eve" volunteer at Antietam Battlefield talking to visitors about the cavalry and the sacrifices of the horses. They also do many



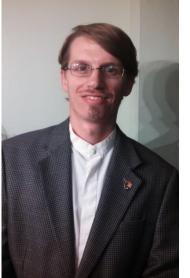
programs in Loudoun County for Tracey Gillespie and the Northern Virginia Park Authority. Mark continuously strives to promote the heritage of the Civil War.

# In Case You Missed It......

As You all know the March presentation by Mr. Logan Metesh was cancelled due to the ongoing COVID-19 threat facing us all, fortunately we were able to get him on the 2020-2021 schedule. The FCCWRT Board will never endanger the health or safety of roundtable members or guests and assess the risk for any given meeting. We will continue to monitor the ongoing circumstances we find ourselves in and strive to bring members the best in Civil War History presentations and, in the interim, provide information about virtual experience

opportunities and things to do, until we can once again provide

experiences in person.



# **Prez Sez**

First and foremost, myself and the board hope that everyone is staying healthy and getting through the current troubles successfully. I greatly appreciate everyone's understanding about us shutting down the March meeting. We hope to have our March speaker, Logan Metesh, rescheduled and we are working with him on that.

As for the April meeting, unfortunately with the governor's order extending the state shutdown through April, the board and I have

decided to cancel our April meeting out of an abundance of caution and to adhere to the governor's request. Our scheduled speaker was one of the senior interpretive rangers at Antietam National Battlefield, Brian Baracz, who was going to give his monuments presentation, "Memory in Bronze and Stone". This is a great presentation and we hope to get Brian back in the near future as well.

For those of you working from home or trying to keep children educated / entertained during this period, there are numerous resources online, from the Smithsonian and National Park Service, to independent historians and scholars giving talks and presentations. Some of those links can be found on our website here: <a href="http://frederickcountycivilwarrt.org/links.html">http://frederickcountycivilwarrt.org/links.html</a>. So, stay tuned for updates, stay safe, wash those hands and we will all make it through this together!

## ~ Matt Borders



### **Book Review**

#### **REVIEW:**

Benjamin Franklin Cooling III, <u>Symbol, Sword and Shield: Defending Washington During the Civil War</u>. 305pp. Appendix, notes, bibliography, pictures. \$7.21 (hardcover), ISBN: 0942597249 Reviewed by Matthew A. D. Borders

With Spring now upon us I have begun gearing up for another season at Monocacy National Battlefield. As such I picked up <u>Symbol, Sword and Shield</u> by regional historian Dr. Benjamin Cooling. You may be familiar with Dr. Cooling's work, particularly for the Monocacy Campaign, he has also written, <u>Monocacy: The Battle that Saved Washington; Mr. Lincoln's Forts; The Day Lincoln was Almost Shot and Early: Lee's Bad Old Man. For this work Cooling looked at the entire history of the fortification network that surrounded Washington DC by the end of the American Civil War. This included 84 separate forts and 96 different batteries or gun positions around those fortifications. This led to Washington being the most heavily fortified city on earth by 1864.</u>

Symbol, Sword and Shield, begins on Inauguration Day, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1861, with President Abraham Lincoln taking the oath of office. The southern states had already begun to secede by this point, not willing to actually see what the Lincoln administration would do, and fearful of how he might affect the southern ties to the institution of slavery. As such the inauguration was under a cloud, both literally and figuratively, as the sky and the fate of the nation darkened. As the southern states were leaving the Union, they were also taking federal installations, forts in particular, but also other government buildings and stores. Washington DC was between two southern states, Maryland, and Virginia, what would defend the public property from being seized by an opportunistic force if either of those states decided to leave the Union?

The federal army presence in Washington at this time was quite light. At the beginning of the year Brevet Lieutenant General Winfield Scott, the General in Chief of the American Army, moved eight companies of the army and marines, a mix of infantry, artillery, cavalry and engineers, into the city. He did this to prevent any insurrection or attempts to thwart the counting of the electoral college votes that would make Lincoln's election victory official. These men were still present during the inauguration a few months later and ran security for the event. This was the extent of the military's might at this time however, the bulk of the national army was deployed to the western and southwestern territories and it would take time to recall them east if any large-scale threat to the capital occurred.

Following the firing on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor on April 12th, 1861, President Lincoln called upon 75,000 volunteers to put down the rebellion on April 15th, two days later Virginia seceded from the Union on April 17th. With the situation changing rapidly and the volunteer forces not yet organized the first defenders of the nation's capital, beyond the small military contingent, were actually volunteers from the city itself. Organized by the former Kansas Jay Hawker Jim Lane and other "volunteer officers" these Washington militias were made up of the preexisting militia forces from the city as well as volunteers. This rallying of the populace helped to secure the capital and protect it from potential threats from Virginia as well as the very real threat of southern leaning members of Washington's own population. These temporary militias watched over the Washington long enough for the volunteer forces to begin to arrive at the end of April, securing the capital.

With the arrival of thousands of volunteers from across the Union not only was the capital safe from immediate threat, but it was also very, very crowded. Something needed to be done, not only to house the troops, public buildings such as the halls of Congress and the Treasury building were initially used for the this, but also to keep them busy. Thus the first shovels were turned and the first trees felled to begin the construction of the system of forts that eventually encircled Washington and Alexandria.

This system of fortifications only became more necessary following the Union disaster at First Bull Run. With the field army routed the defenses of the capital, though woefully incomplete, acted as a rallying point for the Union army and gave pause to the limited Confederate pursuit. These forts acted as the shield behind which the symbol of the country, Washington, was defended. This shield only grew larger in the closing months of 1861 as additional volunteers added to the network of fortifications.

As the war continued the sword of this fortification screen became the garrison itself. Not only those troops in the forts, manning the parapets, guns and rifle pits, but also the sentries and the forward defensive lines that stretched out into Maryland and Virginia. These locations were manned by the mobile element of the garrison. A strategic reserve that manned different locations and could be rallied together to engage an approaching foe. This was the Lincoln administration's thinking for General McDowell's forces in 1862 when they were recalled from movements to join the Army of the Potomac on the Peninsula. Unfortunately, the garrison and its reserve was also looked upon as a man power pool for the field armies. The officers in charge of the fortifications complained bitterly throughout the war of man power shortages on the lines and in the construction crews, due in no small part to elements of the garrison being ordered to the field. This is seen in 1862 following the Northern Virginia Campaign and the Maryland Campaign, in the Spring of 1863 prior to and immediately after Chancellorsville. As the armies headed north towards Gettysburg more troops were pulled out of the forts, some going with the Army of the Potomac, and some even going to the Virginia Peninsula to support a diversion against Richmond.

The greatest example of this however, and the largest portion of the book, deals with the removal of troops during the Overland Campaign and at the beginning of the Siege of Petersburg. Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant, by now the General-in-Chief, ordered nearly 50,000 men from the defenses of the capital to make good his loses slugging it out with Lee in the Spring of 1864. This removal of troops left the northern ring of forts poorly manned or in a few cases, empty. Those men still present were concentrated in the southern ring of forts close to the Potomac or beyond the river in northern Virginia. This dangerous situation was exploited by Confederate forces in July when the Confederate Second Corps under Lieutenant General Jubal Anderson Early drove Federal troops from the Shenandoah Valley and struck north to cross the Potomac near Harpers Ferry.

The Monocacy Campaign, or the Third Confederate Invasion of the North, came the closest to taking Washington. Confederate forces, delayed at Harpers Ferry and at Monocacy Junction, arrived on the outskirts of the Capital on July 11th. There was no mobile reserve to engage, or to further delay the approaching foe. Federal troops from the Army of the Potomac were rushed north via steamship and reached the National Capital just in time for Washington to be saved. This is also the point when Lincoln himself came under fire, having gone out to Fort Stevens to observe the approaching Confederates.

With the repulse of Early, and the close of the war the following Spring, the fortifications around Washington fell into disrepair as their garrisons mustered out. The forts were broken down and sold off to the public, their rifle pits filled in and in many cases their locations forgotten and developed over. At the time Symbol, Sword and Shield was written, 1991, there was little being done for the fortifications that still existed around Washington. Fortunately, that has since changed. The National Park Service has since opened the Civil War Defenses of Washington DC, to help better interpret and preserve these disappearing earthworks and positions. Along with their partners in the preservation community and the Virginia State Parks, many of the remains of these forts are now open to the public. A new system of trails has been established, linking many of the old forts, and the outlook for these threatened parts of our Civil War past has never looked better.

# How I survive Social Distancing using my [Addiction]

Bob Smart (cwfan@monocacy.com)

First of all, I am an addict. I am addicted to Military and Technology History. I occasionally went through withdrawal (work and raising a family cut into the time I had to feed my addiction) but then came retirement. Time for classes at FCC through the ILR (Institute for Learning in Retirement, a fantastic program for self-enrichment) and volunteering at Antietam.

But suddenly a pandemic hit and cuts all these things off. And of course, I am in at least three of the high-risk categories so I am taking it seriously (The fact I had read several books on the 1917-19 Pandemic because of my addiction re-enforced all the information I was hearing in the media). So, what do I do to keep the little sanity I have left?

Like most of us I have shelves of books that I have sworn I will eventually read I am making attempting to make a serious dent in that backlog. I am usually working on at least three books at a time (never on the same subject I find it hard to keep track of whether I am 2 PM in the Peach orchard or if Sickles is just deciding to advance in front of the line that Meade assigned him, if I try to cover the same subject from two sources simultaneously). The books I'm currently working on are; "Lee is Trapped, And Must be Taken": Eleven Fateful Days After Gettysburg: July 4-14, 1863 by Thomas Ryan and Richard Schaus, as well as, Too Useful to Sacrifice by Steven Stotelmyer (a local author). For balance I am also reading World War II at Sea: A Global History by Craig Symonds. His name may be familiar to some here, He spoke several years ago to our group on Lincoln and His Admirals. I am not sure this will make much of a dent in my backlog since I just picked up Cavalry on The Roads to Gettysburg: Kilpatrick at Hanover and Hunterstown by George A. Rummel III from a Military Books Marketplace Facebook group I am in.

This brings up another way I keep busy, the Internet. I have been on various discussion groups, email groups and such for more than 20 years. Facebook is the latest iteration of network discussion. It has many of the problems as well as many of the benefits of any other form of communication. I have found a few good discussion groups on various subjects out there as well as some groups I consider a resource, like the **Military Books Marketplace**. It isn't quite as good as having a local used book store to wander through but I have not had a problem with any of the folks who have offered books there, and have found some books at very good prices (some of which I didn't even know I wanted till I saw them)

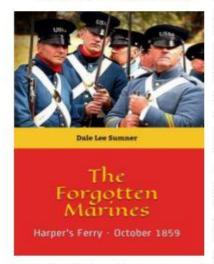
I am also rediscovering the many wargames that I collected years ago and was not able to set up and play for years with kids and other commitments. Now I think I will have time to get out some of those games like *Drive on Washington* about the battle of Monocacy. Maybe when this is all over, we can organize a game playing in person. I have games from the very simple *Blue and Gray Quads'* and the traditional Avalon Hill *Gettysburg* to the 'monster' *Terrible Swift Sword* (Gettysburg) and *Gleam of Bayonets* (Antietam)

If anyone is interested in an ongoing conversation/discussion, I have created the **Frederick County Socially Distanced Civil War Group** on Facebook as I am writing this. So, by the time anyone sees this article it should be up and running (and maybe have a couple members) there are a few simple rules you will see when you attempt to join. They should make sense when you read them and are

similar to another group, I created over two years ago that now has about 1400 members and has (I feel) been very successful. You can also contact me at <a href="mailto:cwfan@monocacy.com">cwfan@monocacy.com</a>

# Reading Recommendations while at home:

#### Prelude to Civil War - Harper's Ferry, October 1859



Oddly enough, the role of the United States Marines during the capture of John Brown at Harper's Ferry, October 1859, has been completely overlooked and essentially forgotten — even by the Marines themselves. Most modern history books, within a quick line or two, exultantly refer only to Brevet Colonel Robert E. Lee, commanding Marines, and assisted by First Lieutenant J.E.B. Stuart, as capturing John Brown.

Is this an accurate depiction of the bona fide story? Not quite! Colonel Lee did not directly command the Marines as implied. The interservice rivalry of the day, as well as the Act of 1834, Section 2, would not

have allowed an Army officer to command any personnel from the Marine branch of service, except at the written direction of the President. Lee was assigned to be the overall commander of Army forces, comprised of Militia units from Virginia and Maryland. The Marines sent to Harper's Ferry were 'Regulars' and commanded by their Officer-in-Charge, First Lieutenant Israel Greene, USM. (Oddly, his last name is often found in most historical writings without the final 'e.')

Why were the Marines sent? Who were they? How were they organized? How did they prepare for the journey to Harper's Ferry? (Harpers Ferry is our modern spelling of the town's name — no one seems to know what happened to the apostrophe in "Harper's" after our Civil War) What took place after they arrived there? What kind of a wooden ladder could do what three heavy sledgehammers could not? How and why did the sword that struck down John Brown bend? As one attempts to look into the Marines' involvement in this bygone confrontation, more and more questions seem to present themselves and demand explanation.

Now, one hundred and sixty years after the event, this novel offers an indepth look at the actions of those heroic, but forgotten, Marines. Although fictional dialogue has been incorporated to give 'life' to the story, historical accuracy has been preserved as correctly as possible.

www.sumdalus.com/tfm

# **Upcoming Virtual Events**

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

**8 April at 1:00 PM - The Use of Anesthesia during the Civil War**; On Facebook live, hosted by the National Museum of Civil War Medicine Facebook Page at: <a href="mailto:Facebook.com/CivilWarMed">Facebook.com/CivilWarMed</a>

**9 April at 7:00 PM - The Fight for the Old North State: Civil War in North Carolina:** The Round Table Congress has just announced its second "Five Star" presenter for the series of talks it is going to run on YouTube Live, with author and historian Hampton Newsome! For Details visit the CWRT on Facebook

**10 April at 1:00 PM - Civil War Diseases**: On Facebook live, hosted by the National Museum of Civil War Medicine Facebook Page at: **Facebook.com/CivilWarMed** 

# A Note from our Special Partners at the NMCWM:

# National Museum of Civil War Medicine Virtual Museum Initiative

The National Museum of Civil War Medicine (NMCWM) is closed to the public until such a time as it is safe and advisable to reopen. However, the NMCWM remains open online. During the public closure, the museum will focus on creating a virtual museum experience. The story of Civil War medicine – which offers accounts of hope in the face of an unprecedented health care crisis – is more important now than ever.

"This is a clear case of taking advantage of a forced opportunity. The NMCWM had authored a Virtual Museum Initiative to be completed over the next two years, but the Coronavirus pandemic has moved that timetable from a few years to a few weeks," says Executive Director David Price. "In these uncharted waters, we want the museum to be a helpful resource for teachers and students everywhere so that we can teach the important lessons of Civil War Medicine – which we now see in the response to the Coronavirus outbreak."

The NMCWM has <u>created a page</u> of resources for students, teachers, individuals, and history buffs alike to use during this time of remote learning. Facebook Lives, YouTube videos, and other digital content will be released over the coming weeks in an effort to provide educational resources and inspiring stories to learn from.

The NMCWM's online resource hub can be found at www.civilwarmed.org/online-resources

# Seminars, Conferences and Upcoming Tours

(no notice of cancellation yet)

<u>24-26 July - The Society for Women and the Civil War (www.SWCW.org) will hold its 21 st annual conference</u> at the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia. This year's theme will be "The Women of the Valley. "The keynote speaker will

be distinguished author and consultant Jonathan A. Noyalas, Director of the McCormick Civil War Institute, Shenandoah University, Winchester, Virginia. 12-17 June - 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. 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.



# **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 contact the research coordinator, Larry Moore at <a href="mailto:ltmfrmc1863y@verizon.net">ltmfrmc1863y@verizon.net</a>.

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!! 416 followers and 397 "likes"!

Gary Dyson has done an amazing job with keeping up posting interesting Civil War facts and discussions. Help us spread the word about OUR FCCWRT.

#### **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.

<u>TO</u> explore the many facets of the Civil War from the battlefield to first-person narratives, including guest lectures by writers and historians.

<u>TO</u> support historical projects and activities aimed at increasing public interest and appreciation of our Civil War history, both locally and nationally.

Looking Ahead The 2020-2021 Schedule is below.



# THE FREDERICK COUNTY CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

30 Years of Preserving Civil War History

Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month (September-May) at 7:00 pm at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine 48 East Patrick Street, (Downtown) Frederick, MD

#### Program Speakers and Topics 2020-2021

#### 2020

#### September 17

Speaker: Scott Mingus

Topic: Targeted Tracks: The Cumberland Valley Railroad In the Civil War

#### October 15

Speaker: Logan Metesh

**Topic:** The Most Influential Man in the (Gun) World: James Henry Burton

#### November 12

Speaker: Bill Hallet Topic: The Pratt Street Riot

#### December 10

Speaker: Mike Fitzpatrick Topic: July 1864 Battle of Rockville

#### 2021

#### January 21

**Speaker:** Harry Seltzer **Topic:** First Battle of Bull Run

#### February 18

Speaker: Joel Hummel

Topic: Civil War Intelligence: The Bureau of Military Information

#### March 18

Speaker: David Dixon

Topic: The Lost Gettysburg Address

#### April 15

Speaker: Dennis Duerbeck

Topic: Artillery: It's Use and Artifact Presentation

#### May 20

Speaker: Jake Wynn & Kyle Dalton Topic: Caring for the Wounded: Evacuation & Amputation

frederickcountycivilwarrt.org and on Facebook

Matt Borders, President mborders@comcast.net



Gary Dyson, Vice President

The Frederick County Civil War Roundtable

#### 2019-2020 Board of Directors

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

Gary Dyson, Vice President, <a href="mailto:garyldyson@gmail.com">garyldyson@gmail.com</a>

Bob Kozak, Treasurer, 301-644-1396 kzakr@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, <a href="mailto:froggyjoe@aol.com">froggyjoe@aol.com</a>

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.frederickcountycivilwarrt.org

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 <a href="http://www.frederickcountycivilwarrt.org/">http://www.frederickcountycivilwarrt.org/</a>.

# NEW or RENEW ANNUAL FCCWRT MEMBERSHIP



NAME (If family membership, please list all names and email addresses)	Ciossroads of The Civil
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 month	aly 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.frederickcountycivilwarrt.org