



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

306th Meeting, 33th Season

Volume 46, Issue # 6

February 16th, 2022, 7:00 PM National Museum of Civil War Medicine 48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland



Speaker: Chris Bryan

Presentation Overview: Cedar Mountain to Antietam: A Civil War Campaign History of the Union XII Corps, July – September 1862

Chris Bryan's Cedar Mountain to Antietam: A Civil War Campaign History of the Union XII Corps, July –September 1862 begins with the formation of this often-luckless command as the II Corps in Maj. Gen. John Pope's Army of Virginia on June 26, 1862, (the II Corps, Army of Virginia becomes the XII Corps, Army of the Potomac). Bryan explains in meticulous detail how the corps endured a bloody and demoralizing loss after coming within a whisker of defeating Maj. Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson at Cedar Mountain on August 9; suffered through the hardships of Pope's campaign before and after the Battle of Second Manassas; and triumphed after entering Maryland and joining the reorganized Army of the Potomac. The men of this small corps earned a solid reputation in the Army of the Potomac at Antietam that would only grow during the battles of 1863. This unique study, which blends unit history with sound leadership and character assessments, puts the XII Corps' actions in proper context by providing significant and substantive treatment to its Confederate opponents. Bryan's extensive archival research, newspapers, and other important resources, together with detailed maps and images, offers a compelling story of a little-studied yet consequential command that fills a longstanding historiographical gap.

Presenters BIO: Chris Bryan is a native of Franklin County, Pennsylvania. After graduating from the United States Naval Academy with a B.S. in History, he served as a naval aviator for eight years. He has since worked as a project manager, during which time he earned an M.A. in Liberal Arts from St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland and a Masters in Historic Preservation from the University of Maryland, College Park where his studies focused on architectural investigations of antebellum domestic and agricultural outbuildings in the Chesapeake Bay region. Chris Bryan lives in Southern Maryland with his wife and two kids.

In Case you missed it:



In January the Round Table hosted Mr. Anthony Trusso, who presented a fantastic program to an almost full house of 30 RoundTable Members and guests.

His program focused on the early days of one of the hardest fighting regiments in the United States Army during the War, the 61st New York Infantry. By war's end, this regiment saw action in every major campaign of the Army of the Potomac, captured 4+

Confederate flags, and could list as its commanders Francis Barlow and Nelson A. Miles. An emphasis will be placed on early command struggles of the regiment, the emergence of Francis Barlow and seeing the elephant outside of Richmond.





Prez Sez:

While we were able to take a deep dive into one of the great, but occasionally overlooked personalities of the war last month, Francis Barlow, this month we will be looking at one of the underappreciated Corps of the Army of the Potomac, the XII Corps! While you may be familiar with the XII Corps clearing the East Woods at Antietam or its stubborn defense of Culp's Hill at Gettysburg, the story of this important portion of the army is often overlooked. Our speaker this month is M. Chris Bryan, who will be speaking to us on just this topic. I had the pleasure of meeting Chris a few months ago at the Antietam Institute Conference and he is going to give a great talk on

the development of the XII Corps and its early history from Cedar Mountain to Antietam.

Speaking of Frederick County Civil War Roundtable presenters, the board is meeting very soon to solidify the speaker schedule for the next few seasons. While the membership has never been shy about asking for certain speakers or topics, time is running out to do so. We have quite a list of potential lecturers and hope to plan out several seasons into the future. So if you have someone you really think we should reach out to or have been waiting to hear about a particular topic, let us know as soon as possible!

Finally, while 2023 has just started, we are already starting to see schedules coming out for Summer programming. The National Park Service for Monocacy, Harpers Ferry, Antietam, and Gettysburg, should all have their tentative schedules out by now and we will keep you updated as to popup events as well. Additionally, the Sharpsburg Speaker Series will be running again this summer and you can find their schedule in this newsletter. So, lots to think about for the future and we look forward to seeing you on Thursday, February 16 at 7pm for our next meeting!

*Very Respectfully,
Matt Borders,
President, FCCWRT*

February Book Review

The Tale Untwisted: General George B. McClellan, the Maryland Campaign, and the Discovery of Lee's Lost Orders by Gene M. Thorp & Alexander B. Rossino
Savas Beatie – February 2023

Review by: Bob Smart

The title and the authors of this volume will be familiar to many members of this round table. They spoke here back when they published their first version of this research as an electronic monograph several years ago. So I had some reservations when I heard that it was being published as a 'real book' wondering if there was enough substance to add to justify re-releasing it in a longer paper and E-book version. I should not have been concerned. First of all it is being published by Savas Beatie who is known for the quality of their Civil War Titles. Second, knowing the authors I should have known they wouldn't put the time into the project if it wasn't worthy.

The book begins by explaining how for over 150 years a mythos has been created and accepted as truth around General McClellan's actions during the Maryland Campaign of 1862. The authors show how it began as what would be called today a 'hit job' during McClellan's 1864 presidential campaign. They show how it took hold in following years. They don't spend much time on the actual discovery of the orders, that is pretty well trodden ground. What they do is describe how the orders affected McClellan's decision making and information flow through the Army of the Potomac (AoP). They build a case for the steps McClellan took based on a solid timeline of what information he received and when he received it. They go into great, but clear detail about the mistakes that have been made in the transcribing of messages and how that affected some interpretation of events. They also take issue with at least one modern high-profile author, who has done several successful books on McClellan and his leadership of the AoP, on his recounting of this portion of the Maryland Campaign and some likely embellishment of the incidents.

For me the difference between a good book on a historical subject and a great one is the supporting material the authors share with the reader. This book provides that supporting material. Throughout the text the authors provide excellent maps describing the situation that existed when decisions were made and allow the reader to understand how the situation was later reported. The real gold mine, in my opinion, is Appendix A titled "Telegraphic Communications During the Army of the Potomac's March to South Mountain, September 6-13, 1862". This 17 page long section describes how the telegraph system was set up, how it operated, the problems that were encountered because of damage done by the Confederates and the steps a message went thru to get from McClellan's writing table to General Halleck's or President Lincoln's inbox. It contains images of actual messages, describes how dates, names, and other sensitive information was enciphered and how a knowledge of the process can help resolve the question about the timing of key messages. Knowing the mechanics of how information was processed is important in understanding the total story of 'The Lost Orders' and the true role they played in the Campaign.

In summation this book should be on any moderately complete bookshelf of Maryland Campaign Literature

FCCWRT 22-23 Season Remaining Schedule

2023

March 16 - Speaker: Ron Kirkwood

Topic: "Too Much for Human Endurance": The George Spangler Farm Hospitals and the Battle of Gettysburg

April 20 - Speaker: Leon Reed

Topic: No Greater Calamity for the Country: North-South Conflict, Secession, and the Onset of the Civil War

May 19 - Speaker: Eric Wittenberg

Topic: Destined to Fail: The Johnson-Gilmor Cavalry Raid around Baltimore, July 10-13, 1864

2023 Antietam Speaker Series

Civil War Lecture Series at the Jacob Rohrbach Inn

These outdoors programs will be held at the Jacob Rohrbach Inn on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. To ensure adequate seating, please bring a chair. In case of inclement weather, lectures will be held at the Sharpsburg Christ Reformed Church of Christ. Parking is available on Main and Hall Streets. For updates and a full schedule of presenters & topics check our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/Antietam's-Jacob-Rohrbach-Inn or our blog at: www.jacob-rohrbach-inn.com/blog/ For further information call (301) 432-5079.

JUNE 7 - Alex Rossino & Gene Thorp

Topic: The Tale Untwisted

JUNE 14 - Richard D'Ambrisi

Topic: Interpretive Themes for Experiencing Antietam National Battlefield

JUNE 21 - Joe Stahl & Matt Borders

Topic: Civil War CDV's: Clues in the Cartes de Visite

JUNE 28 - Jim Rosebrock

Topic: Antietam Artillery Battle Lines

JULY 5 - Jim Smith

Topic: The Chambersburg Raid: Jeb Stuart's October 1862 Ride Around the Army of the Potomac

JULY 12 - Steve Stotelmyer

Topic: Sugar Loaf Mountain: The Overlooked Confederate Intelligence Failure of the Maryland Campaign

JULY 19 - Darin Wipperman

Topic: "His Example Will Not be Lost": The 30-day Civil War of Robert Hale Ives, Jr.

JULY 26 - Laura Marfut

Topic: The Battle for Maryland Heights in the Siege of Harpers Ferry

AUGUST 2 - Kevin Pawlak & Jon-Erik Gilot

Topic: John Brown's Raid: Harpers Ferry and the Coming of the American Civil War, October 16-18, 1859

AUGUST 9 - Brad Gottfried

Topic: The Antietam Paintings of James Hope

AUGUST 16 - Sarah Kay Bierle

Topic: John Pelham: Trained at West Point but Aiming Artillery for the Confederacy

AUGUST 23 - Michael Lang

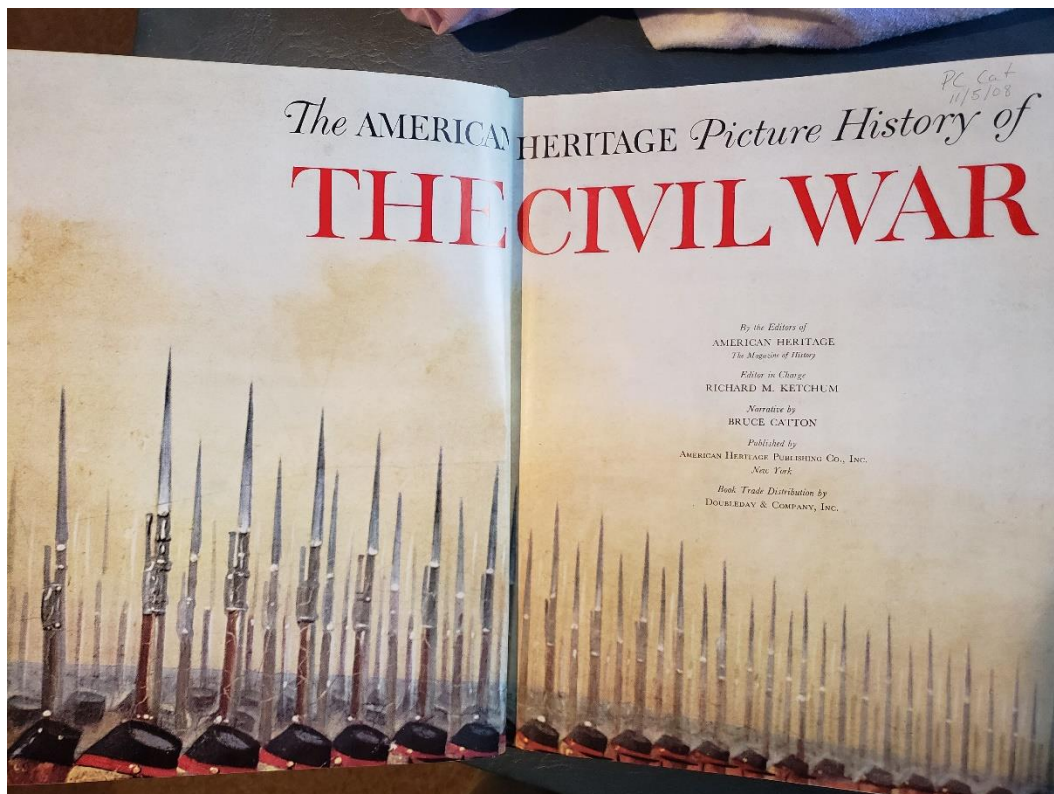
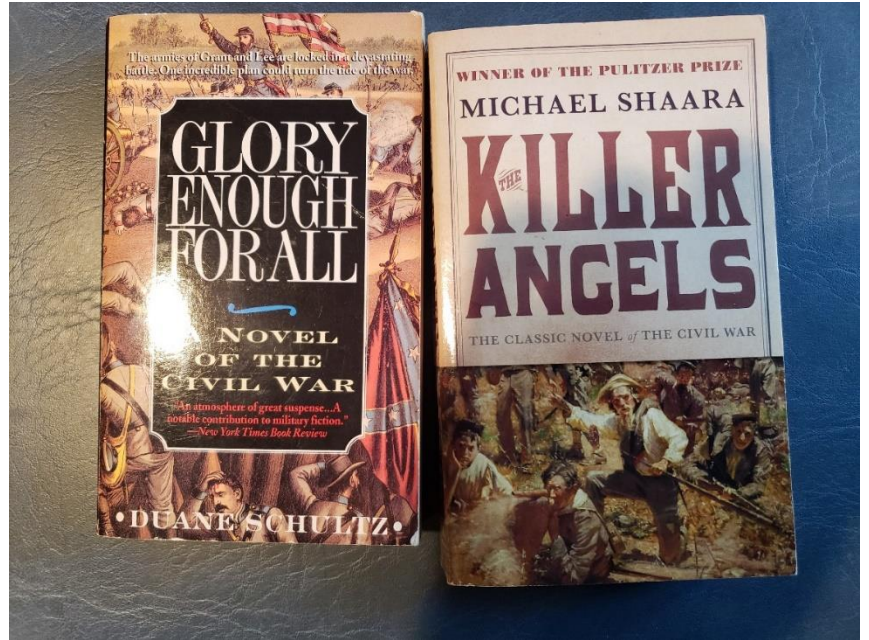
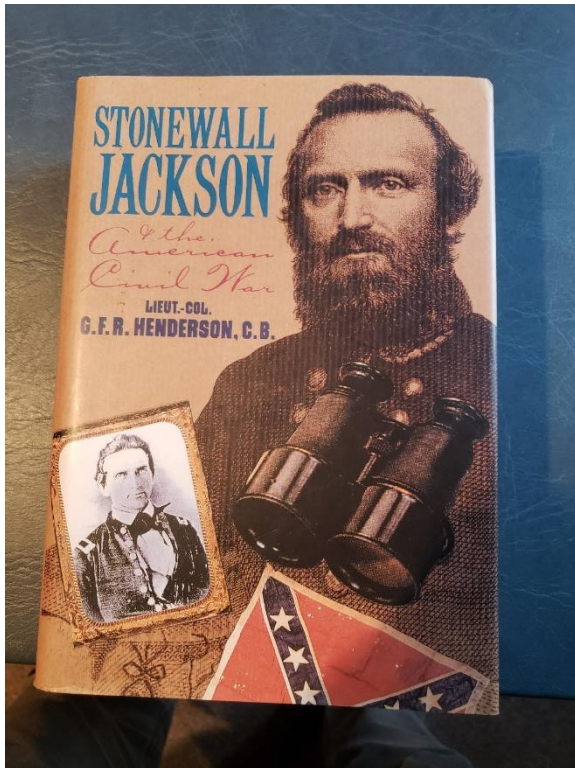
Topic: "A Perfect Purgatory": Two Generals' journeys from Antietam Creek to the Trans-Mississippi

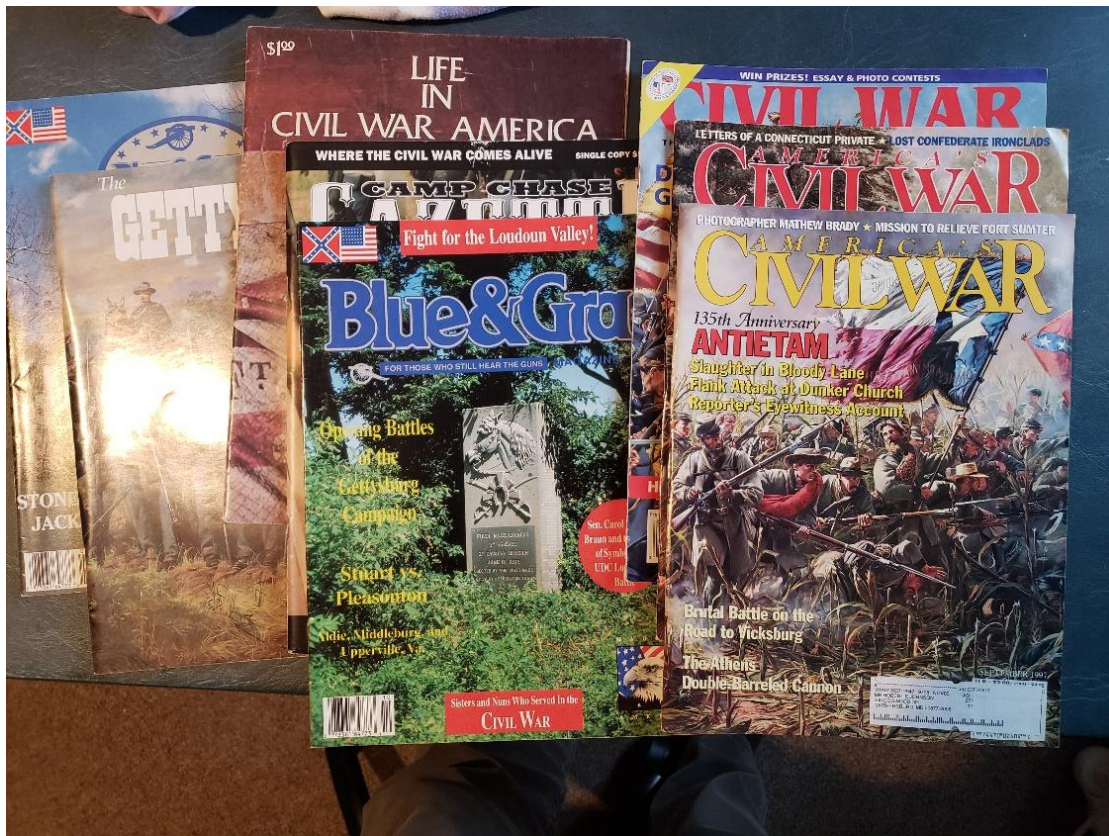
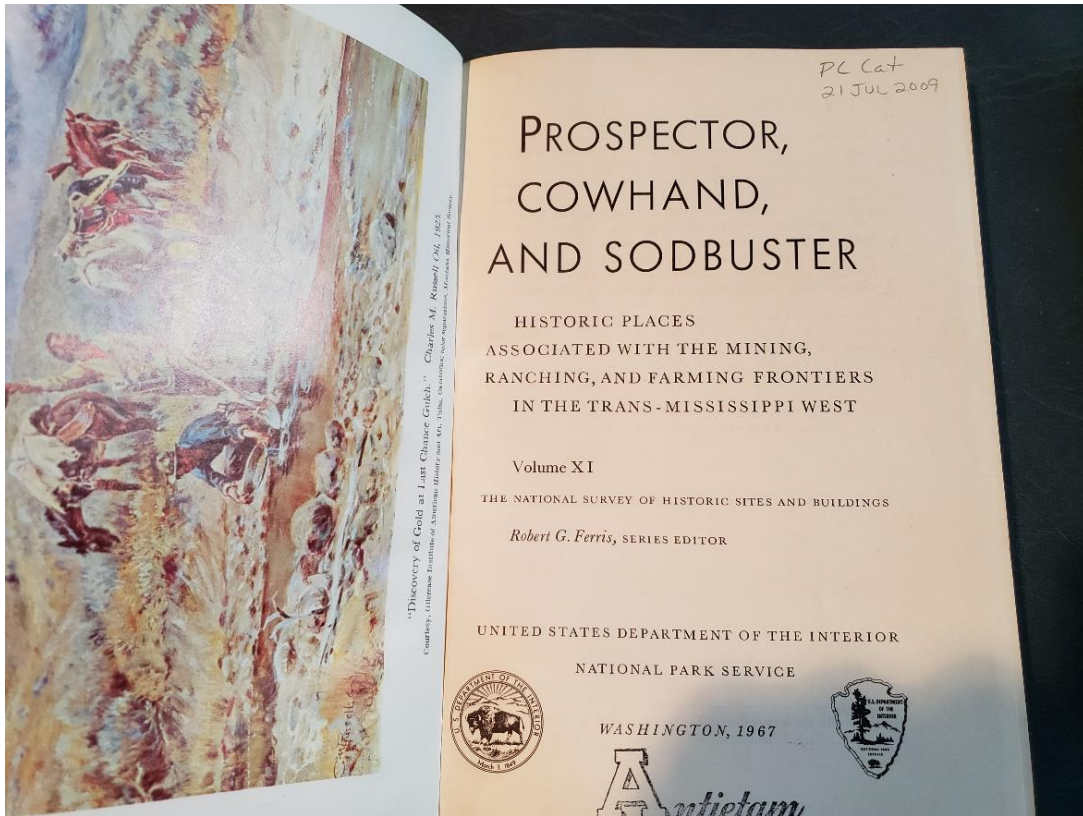
AUGUST 30 - John Schildt

Topic: The Life of Henry Kyd Douglas

February Book Raffle

(Each winner chooses a mug along with the book !)





NMCWM Partner's New Virtual Book Club

The National Museum of Civil War Medicine is happy to announce the launch of our new virtual book club--Between the Lines. Every other month from 7 PM - 8 PM we will be meeting via Zoom to discuss an assigned book.

Join us online March 14th as we celebrate Women's History Month with a discussion of Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy by Karen Abbott, with a special appearance by the author herself!

Register here: <https://www.civilwarmed.org/between-the-lines-book-club/>

FCCWRT Lectures Available

For those of you who may have missed any of the Virtual Presentations from the previous seasons of the FCCWRT, all presentations can be found on the National Museum of Civil War Medicine YouTube channel found here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/nmcwm/videos>

The Antietam Institute

The Antietam Institute is the leading member-based, educational, and philanthropic 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, dedicated to the education and scholarship of the Maryland Campaign. The Institute seeks to educate the public on the central role of the 1862 Maryland Campaign, and Battle of Antietam, as a major turning point of the Civil War that directly resulted in the issuance of the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

Each year the Institute makes donations to the battlefield parks, local preservation groups and other historic organizations that support the Institute's goals. As a member - based organization, the Antietam Institute needs the support of individuals interested in the 1862 Maryland Campaign. Membership levels begin as low as \$25 a year and rise to a lifetime membership of only \$1000. Each level has increasing levels of membership incentives. If you are interested in joining or learning more about the Antietam Institute, check out our website at antietaminstitute.org or email us at info@antietaminstitute.org.

Our NMCWM Partner links

National Museum of Civil War Medicine Facebook Page, offering Facebook live opportunities weekly: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/CivilWarMed/videos/>

National Museum of Civil War Medicine now offering its own YouTube Channel, tons of content available: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdGkf5-Y7aEZsXEBhRhEKjg?>

Civil War Institutes Summer Conference

CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE
SUMMER CONFERENCE
JUNE 9-14, 2023



CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE



Featuring...

Garry Adelman, Matt Atkinson,
Peter Carmichael, Harold Holzer,
Jennifer Murray, Carol Reardon,
Jeffrey Wert, and more!



Program includes active battlefield experiences, lectures, and interactive small-group discussions with leading Civil War scholars; customizable packages available!

Be sure to inquire about our numerous discounts for military veterans, Gettysburg College alumni, members of local partnering institutions & publications, K-12 educators, public historians, students, youths, and "new attendee recruiters!"

<https://www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/2023-cwi-conference#schedule>

Questions? Contact civilwar@gettysburg.edu or 717-337-6590 for further information



2023 CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE

Summer Conference

JUNE 9-14, 2023

For nearly 40 years, the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College has hosted a **premiere annual summer conference** bringing leading historians and public audiences together. Sessions, lodging, and meals are held on the 200-acre college campus.

The 2023 CWI Conference will feature a wide range of topics, including **Lincoln as Commander in Chief, the Civil War in Appalachia, Harriet Tubman, John Singleton Mosby, Confederate widowhood, retaliation in the American Civil War, the Army of Tennessee**, and more.

In addition to touring the Gettysburg battlefield, participants will have the opportunity to **visit a variety of other nearby battlefields** and historic sites on tours that will explore **Antietam and Harpers Ferry**, or to **combine a half-day of focused class work with a half-day out on the battlefield**, exploring, in-depth, the actions on the **1st or 3rd day of battle at Gettysburg**. Participants who may prefer a shorter, more physically active conference experience can also 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, exploring the **First Day's battlefield and the Union Fishhook, off the beaten path!**

This conference will also continue the popular **"lunch-in" and "dine-in" small group discussions** with CWI faculty.

The 2023 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, PA 17325-1400

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteerism and the ability to volunteer has been interrupted by the COVID-19 circumstances we find ourselves in. We will keep members and friends informed about future volunteer opportunities.

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://www.facebook.com/fccwrt> Gary Dyson is our "face" for Facebook, help us spread the word about OUR FCCWRT!! 2.4K likes and 2.5K follows !

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.

Also visit our website at: <http://www.frederickcountycivilwarrt.org/>

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.

As President Borders stated, our membership drive for the year is ongoing! Please consider supporting the Round Table during the 22-23 season, by 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 (\$25.00 for current dues paying members.)
- \$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.frederickcountycivilwarrt.org/>.

2021-2022 Board of Directors

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

Vacant, Vice President

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

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

Ken Derrenbacher, Book Raffle, kderren3@gmail.com

Gary Dyson, At Large, garyldyson@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.frederickcountycivilwarrt.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