



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

310th Meeting, 34th Season

Volume 47, Issue # 2

19 October 2023, 7:00 PM National Museum of Civil War Medicine 48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland



Speaker : G. Bert Stephenson

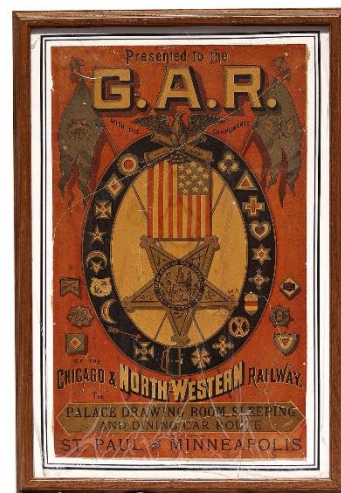
Presentation Overview: The Grand Army of the Republic

Bert will discuss the simultaneous rise and fall of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and the Civil War Pension System. The GAR was a fraternal organization, and the pension was a federal program. They both rose to power and influence just after the war ended. Both declined slowly as the veterans, their wives and children passed away. The process of joining the GAR, creating a local post, and political influence are discussed with examples. The process of

claiming a pension, appealing a negative decision, why the system lasted so long are illustrated with examples. Some of the examples are humorous and some are sad.

Presenters BIO: G. Bert Stevenson was born and raised in North-East; PA. He graduated from Marshall University, Huntington WV as a physicist and mathematician. Mr. Stevenson worked for the federal government for over 40 years; As an Army Ordnance Officer and as civilian (Navy; Department of Energy, etc.). he did research and development on bomb disposal, counter terrorism; and counter narcotics. He now resides in Southern Maryland.

Mr. Stevenson is a member of the Southern Maryland Civil War Round Table. His primary Civil War interests are on how and why soldiers left the military during the war and what happened to them after the war. Because some of his relatives served in the Civil War, he has specific interest in several units: 5th NY Cav; 9th PA Cav (aka 92nd PA Vol.); 8th PA Vol Inf Rgmt (3 months); 112th NY Vol. Inf. Rgmt; 143rd PA Vol Inf Rgmt; 53rd PA Vol Reserves; 3rd Rgmt. PA Heavy Artillery (aka 152nd PA Vol.) and 22nd WI Vol Inf Rgmt.



In case you Missed it:



On a beautiful September evening, a crowd of eighteen attended Mount Olivet Cemetery for the first event of the new season of our FCCWRT. Our speaker, Gary Dyson, board member, has done extensive research on the Confederate soldiers who are buried in “Confederate Row” in the back of the cemetery. Gary used newspapers, battle histories, hospital records, widow pension filings, census and marriage records to learn more about these men. These soldiers fought at Gettysburg, Antietam, Monocacy, and South Mountain. Most arrived directly from field hospitals or from hospitals



in and around Frederick.

During his research, Gary found many gravestones mislabeled as well as some containing multiple bodies. One intriguing case involves “Raisin



Pitts”, whose unusual name often draws attention. Gary determined that this was most likely the grave of Drayton Pitts and the incorrect



stone may have simply been caused by someone at the hospital misunderstanding the name of Drayton. Gary has authored several books detailing his research and is currently working on a book about Union soldiers buried in multiple cemeteries in Maryland.



Prez Sez:

Thank you to everyone who made it out to our 2023-2024 season opener at Mount Olivet Cemetery, we have been really successful with these opening field trips, and we are glad you continue to support them. Also, thank you again to our own Gary Dyson for giving us an excellent analysis of Confederate Row and those interred there. With the season begun, we are back with our most gracious host this month, the National Museum of Civil War Medicine. Our speaker will be looking at one of the most powerful and influential political organizations of the late 19th Century, the Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. Bert Stevenson will touch

on the history of this organization, how it developed and how it bounced back from near failure early on in its existence. This will no doubt be a fascinating and highly informative presentation you won't want to miss. With our regular meetings back in session, don't forget about your dues! No one likes to think about funding, but it is your dues and those of the board that provide funds for our speaker honorariums, as well as rent for our location. So don't forget to bring in those funds and help support the Frederick County Civil War Round Table for another season. Speaking of support, if anyone is interested in a board position, or volunteering please let myself or any of the current board know.

It has been quite some time since we have held formal elections, between the pandemic and post pandemic years, I have been president for a long time. I happy to keep it up, but don't want anyone to think we are running an oligarchy here with a never changing board and president. So if you have thoughts or the need to see new management, let us know!

Hope to see everyone on October 19 at 7pm at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine.

*Very Respectfully,
Matt Borders,
President, FCCWRT*

October Book Review

Righting the Longstreet Record at Gettysburg: Six Matters of Controversy and Confusion, Cory M. Pfarr: McFarland & Co. Inc., 2023. ix + 214 pp. + notes, maps, and images, \$39.95 (paperback), ISBN 978-1476685977. Reviewed by: Matthew A. Borders

A follow-up to his brilliant Longstreet at Gettysburg (McFarland, 2019), Cory Pfarr once more takes on the myths and misinformation surrounding Lieutenant General James Longstreet and his performance at the Battle of Gettysburg. Published as a series of essays, these controversies are systematically broken down as he delves into the origins of each, exposing where the rumor and bias of the controversy originated from.

James Longstreet did not do himself any favors when he supported the Grant Administration after the war and became a Republican. Easily the most prominent former Confederate to do so, Longstreet's supposed "betrayal" of the South, and his support for rights for the formally enslaved, earned him the ire of influential former Confederates, such as Jubal Early, and institutions such as the Southern Historical Society.

How the controversy was established is looked at in depth in the first essay. How it even began is very much up for debate, but the author lays out a compelling argument for how a post-war interview Longstreet gave in 1866 was misconstrued as an attack on Robert E. Lee's generalship. This in turn opened a flood of criticism from those who had served in the Army of Northern Virginia following Lee's death in 1870. The ensuing war of words continued primarily through newspaper articles, but also the papers of the Southern Historical Society and the essays of the Confederate Veteran's journal.

Pfarr's second essay was a surprise as it dove into the post war friendship between Longstreet and Major General Daniel Sickles. While friendships between former Civil War adversaries is nothing new, the candor of their letters and the mutual benefit these men received from each other, was. This went as far as Longstreet publicly agreeing with Sickles about his advance to the Peach Orchard and that positions importance to delaying the Confederate advance on July 2. The generals supported each other regarding their decisions on July 2, 1863, in both their post war writings and speeches.

The third essay begins a series of writings relating to Longstreet's movements on July 2. How the movements in preparation for Longstreet's assault have been misunderstood by both the general's contemporaries and modern historians alike, as well as the timing of the assault.

Continuing this topic, the fourth and fifth essays take traditional narratives, as well as the modern historians who have parroted them, to task for the controversies surrounding the movement of Longstreet's Corps during the second day of Gettysburg. The fourth essay deals with the march itself and how it has been misinterpreted since it occurred. The fifth, with confusion in the narrative regarding Longstreet's order of battle and the use of Major General Richard H. Anderson's Third Corps division.

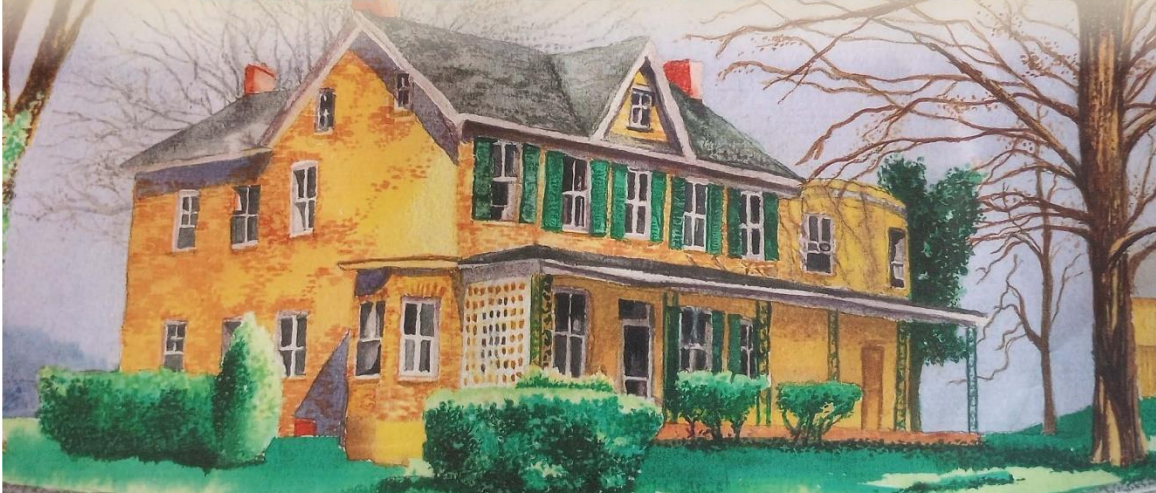
Finally, Cory Pfarr brings forward Helen Dortch Longstreet, James Longstreet's second wife and defender of his wartime record. The author argues that this remarkable woman, who worked as a riveter during World War 2, and her defense of Longstreet is just as valid a source as any other post war writing by those who wished to damage Longstreet's image.

All of these subjects are covered in immense detail and those who are interested in the complexities and a defense of James Longstreet are encouraged to look into this work, you won't regret it. May 19 - Speaker: Eric Wittenberg

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

Announcing the first annual

OLD TIME STRING BAND CONCERT



at the **SHAFFER FARM** in **BURKITTSVILLE, MD**
1606 GAPLAND RD.
OCTOBER 14TH 2:00-6:30 PM



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BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS AND BLANKETS!

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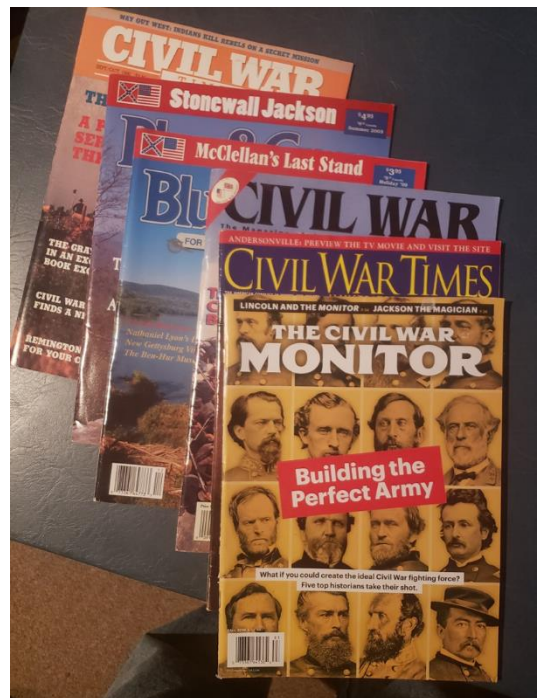
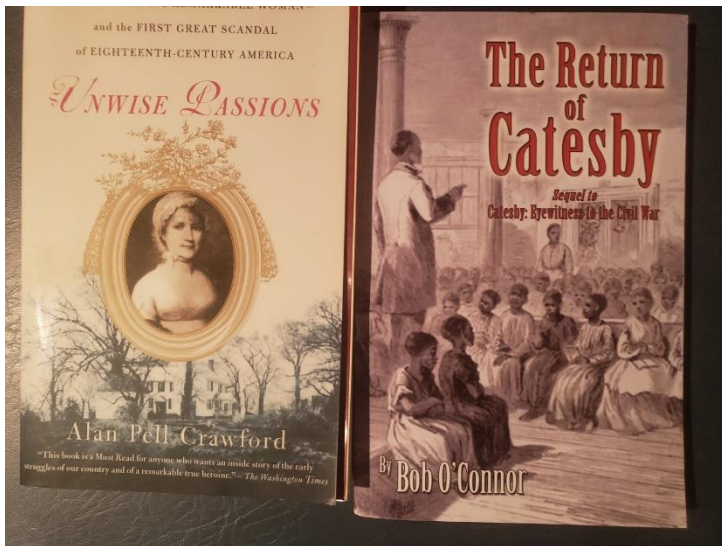
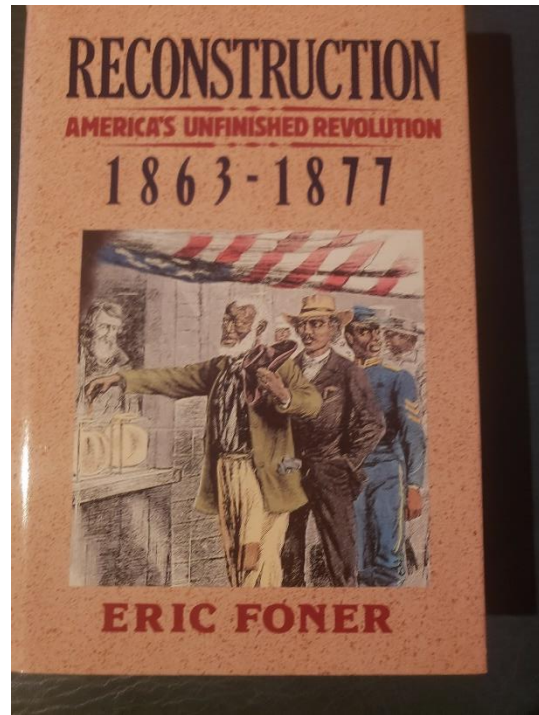
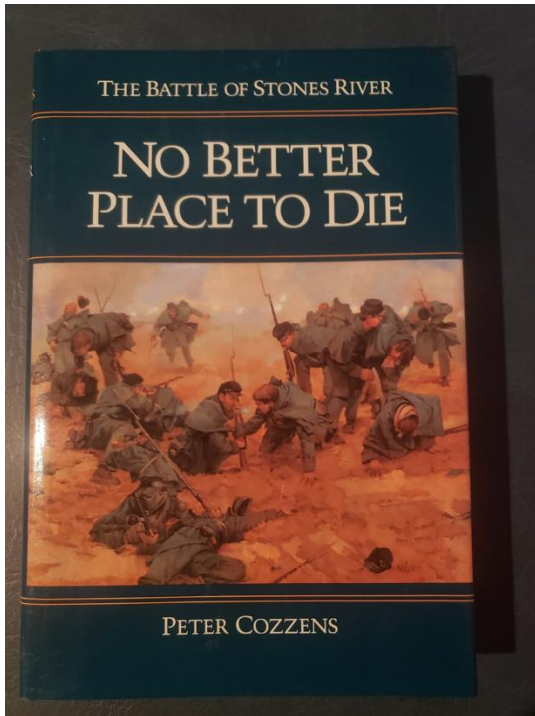


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PURCHASE TICKETS AT: BURKITTSVILLEPRESERVATION.ORG

October Book Raffle



Help the Friends of Mount Olivet



★ December 16, 2023 ★ National Wreaths Across America Day



**Help the Friends of Mount Olivet honor
local heroes!**

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a
veteran's grave this December at Mount
Olivet Cemetery.

Scan the QR code to the right to make a
donation online or visit:

www.wreathscrossamerica.org/MD0457P



#ServeAndSucceed



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

2023 Wreath Sponsorship Order Form



Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans' cemeteries, as well as at local and community cemeteries each December for National Wreaths Across America Day.

Your donation will ensure the placement of a veteran's wreath for one or more veterans laid to rest at the participating location of your choice.

All sponsored veteran wreaths are shipped directly to the location selected by the sponsor on this form. Wreaths are not shipped to individual wreath sponsors.

Please make checks payable to:

Wreaths Across America
PO Box 249
Columbia Falls, ME 04623

Call 877-385-9504 with any questions.
Thank you for your sponsorship and joining us in our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach!

SPONSORSHIP TYPE	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$17.00		
Family = 4 Wreaths	\$68.00		
Small Business = 10 Wreaths	\$170.00		
Corporate = 100 Wreaths	\$1,700.00		

For quicker processing and the convenience of paying with a credit card, debit card, Google Pay, or PayPal, veteran wreaths may be sponsored online by scanning the QR Code above or by visiting: [{{WAA Shortlink}}](#)

You should be the only one to enter your credit card information at checkout on the Wreaths Across America website. For your security, do not share this information with anyone else who offers to place an order for you. To verify the validity of the QR Code, always check that wreathscrossamerica.org is part of the web address when sponsoring wreaths online.

If you prefer to pay with a check, please complete this form and mail it along with your check to Wreaths Across America at the address listed in the box above.

To split your donation between multiple groups and/or locations, please list the IDs and dollar amounts for each.

CHECK #		CHECK DATE		SPONSOR NAME FOR DISPLAY <i>If different than name on check.</i>	
GROUP ID(s)	{{Group ID}}			EMAIL ADDRESS	
LOCATION ID(s)	{{Location ID}}			PHONE #	
DOLLAR AMOUNTS(s)				MAILING ADDRESS	

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Please note in memory/honor of requests do not place a wreath on a specific loved one's grave.

IN MEMORY OF REQUEST	The "In Memory Of" Name will be listed on the Wreaths Across America online Remember Wall, along with your personal message.
NAME FOR MEMORY WALL POST	
SPONSOR EMAIL ADDRESS	
MESSAGE (optional)	

IN HONOR OF REQUEST	An email will be sent to your chosen recipient from Wreaths Across America letting them know of your donation of sponsored veteran wreaths in their honor.
RECIPIENT NAME	
RECIPIENT EMAIL ADDRESS	
MESSAGE (optional)	

Thank you for supporting our mission to REMEMBER, HONOR, and TEACH!

FCCWRT 2023-2024 Season

2023:

November 16 ZOOM Meeting - Lynn & Julianne Herman, Civil War Florida

December 14 - Peter C. Miele, The Lutheran Seminary, and the Battle of Gettysburg

2024:

January 18 - Eric W. Buckland, Mosby vs. Cole's Cavalry

February 15 - Dr. Stephen A. Goldman - White and Black Servicemen during Reconstruction

March 21 ZOOM Meeting - Stephen Romaine, The Case of Mary Bowser, the quintessential Spy

April 18 - Randy Drais, Rock Carvings @ Gettysburg

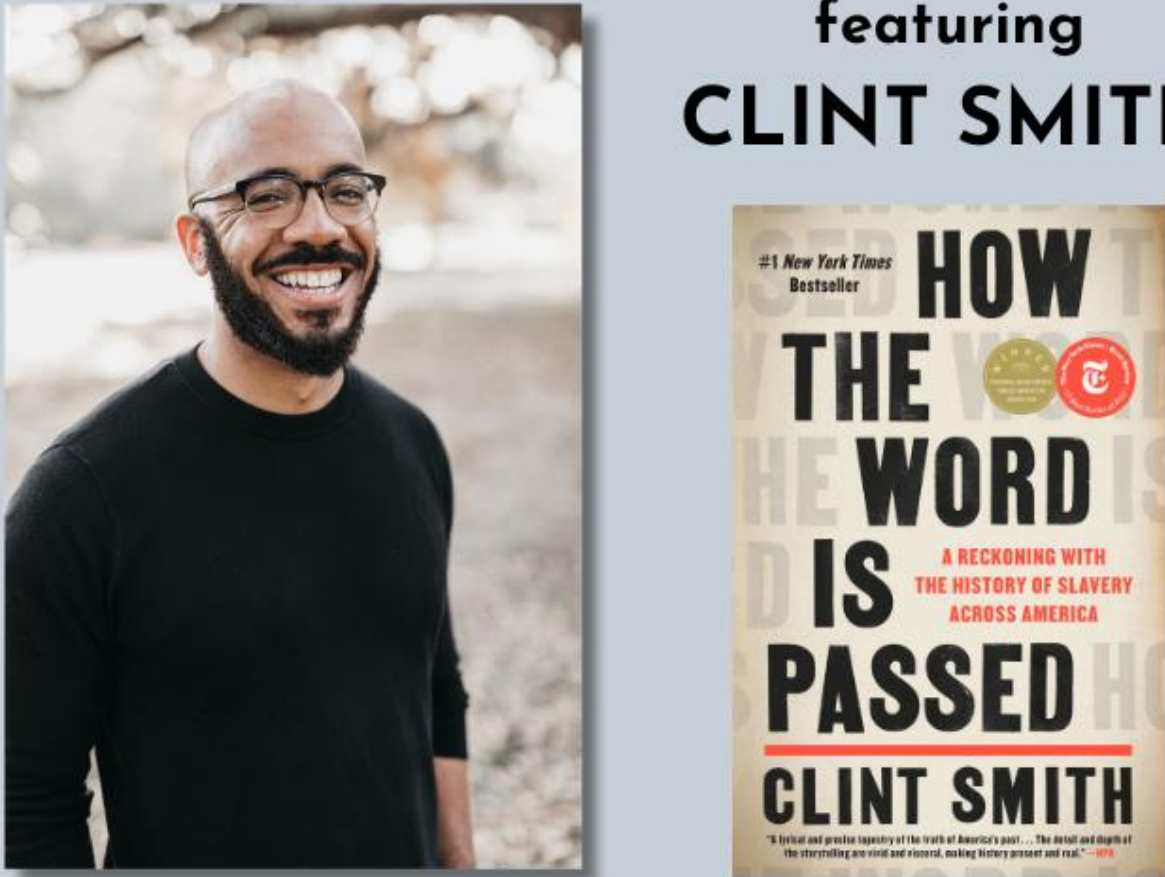
May 16 - Sarah Key Bierle, the New Market Campaign topics check our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/Antietam's-Jacob-Rohrbach-Inn or our blog at: www.jacob-rohrbach-inn.com/blog/ For further information call (301) 432-5079.

**Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area Year in Review
Bestselling author, poet and educator Clint Smith will be the
speaker for the heritage area year-in-review**

Weinberg Center at 20 West Patrick St, Frederick, MD

Wednesday Nov 1 at 6:30 PM

RSVP: [HTTPS://WEINBERGCENTER.ORG/SHOWS/HCWHA-YEAR-IN-REVIEW/](https://weinbergcenter.org/shows/hcwha-year-in-review/)



featuring
CLINT SMITH

#1 *New York Times* Bestseller
HOW THE WORD IS PASSED
A RECKONING WITH THE HISTORY OF SLAVERY ACROSS AMERICA
CLINT SMITH

"A lyrical and gripping tapestry of the truth of America's past. ... The detail and depth of the storytelling are vivid and visceral, making history present and real." —*NYT*

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?>

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!! 2.6K likes and 2.7K 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 23-24 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/>.

2022-2023 Board of Directors

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

Vacant, Vice President

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

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Gary Dyson, At Large, garyldyson@gmail.com

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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