



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

319th Meeting, 36th Season

Volume 48, Issue # 5

**January 16, 2025, 7:00 PM
National Museum of Civil War Medicine
48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland**



Speaker: Drew Gruber

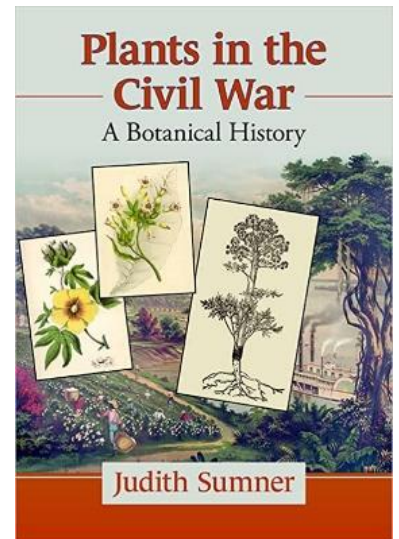
Topic: Siege of Yorktown

Drew Gruber is the Executive Director of Civil War Trails, Inc. Civil War Trails is the world's largest "open air museum" offering over 1,500 sites across six states. He holds a certification from the Southeast Tourism Society, a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a Bachelors in Historic Preservation from Mary Washington College. He was the interim Director for the Williamsburg Battlefield Association and was a Gubernatorial Appointed Member on the Commonwealth's Board of Historic Preservation. In his spare time, he likes tinkering on his old British car, loves brown spiritus liquors, and is curious about fly fishing.

The 1862 Siege of Yorktown is a story that has been told and retold with equal parts fact and fiction for almost 162 years. Drew's lecture will provide a new look at some of those tired stories and recognized photos, hoping to provide new insight and get the audience to think more critically about the "siege" which lasted almost one month.

In Case You Missed It...

At the December 19 ZOOM meeting, those who tuned in heard a very in-depth presentation, "Canebrakes to Cotton Fields, A Botanical History of the Civil War," by Judith Sumner from Massachusetts. Her presentation focused mainly on the Southern perspective of plants and their uses since there was a greater need to use these in response to shortages from the blockade. Substitutions made were not just for military needs during the war! You can get a copy of her book online or through McFarland Publishers.



Prez Sez:



The Frederick County Civil War Round Table Board and I would like to wish all our members a very Happy Holiday Season as we move into 2025. We hope that you were able to spend time with friends and family this season and are looking forward to more great programming about the American Civil War.

To open the new year, we have the Executive Director of Civil War Trails himself, Drew Gruber, stepping away from his role as the head of the largest outdoor museum in the country to speak with us about one of his passions, the Siege of Yorktown! Not the 1783 siege that ended the Revolution, no! The 1862 siege that encompassed the first month of the Peninsula Campaign. This campaign saw innovations in both logistics and subterfuge by both sides. Vast Federal resources and technology, brought to bear against

Confederate engineering and tactics. This will be a great presentation!

Thank you once again to everyone who joined us last month for our Zoom program with Dr. Judith Sumner, a fantastic presentation that is available on the National Museum of Civil War Medicine YouTube channel. This month we are back at the Medical Museum on January 16, at 7pm, we hope to see you there!

*Most Sincerely,
Matt Borders,
President, FCGWRJ*

January Book Review

Great Campaigns: Jackson's Valley Campaign, by David G. Martin, Combined Books. 223 pgs., pictures, maps, notes, appendix, \$22.95 (hardcover), ISBN 0-938289-40-3. Reviewed by: Matthew A. Borders

One of the most lauded campaigns of the American Civil War is Major General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson's 1862 Shenandoah Valley Campaign. Usually portrayed as the hard marching and nimble Confederate forces of Jackson beating back multiple Federal armies trying to maneuver through and abuse the Valley. The *Great Campaigns* series follows much the same narrative structure. While it does read as somewhat pro-Confederate, the work does do a good job laying out the battles and maneuvers of the campaign.

Jackson is often portrayed as never having lost a battle, in large part due to his success in the Shenandoah Valley. The problem with that interpretation is that Jackson didn't win all the battles in the Valley. Fortunately, *Great Campaigns* does cover ALL the fighting in the Valley, including Jackson's ill-advised and piecemeal attacks at Kernstown on March 23, 1862. The very first battle of the Valley Campaign went down as a Federal victory as Jackson's men were driven from behind a stonewall on rising ground and forced to retire. That bright spot in Federal efforts, however, was just about it. After reorganizing his command, he and his men were off on their most famous campaign.

While each of the subsequent battles in the Shenandoah Valley did indeed go Jackson's way, where *Great Campaigns* really succeeds is in its details. Good maps and quotes help the reader follow a campaign of near constant maneuver. It was this ability to move aggressively and with determination that allowed Jackson to bring his forces to bear against a variety of Federal commanders in the Valley, including Fremont, Banks, Shields and McDowell. The disorganized response to Jackson's efforts allowed him to usually match or even outnumber his opponents and win battle after battle. The study also makes it clear that while these Confederate victories were usually against relatively small forces, the real success of the campaign was tying down resources meant for the Peninsula and the campaign against Richmond.

Jackson's aggressiveness and familiarization with the Shenandoah Valley proved decisive in withholding approximately 50,000 Federal troops from going to the aid of the Army of the Potomac in front of Richmond. He was so successful in fact that his own forces were then freed to aid in the counter attacks from Richmond at the end of June 1862, known as the Seven Days. The legend that was developed at Manassas in 1861 was cemented in 1862, all because of the Shenandoah Valley Campaign.

FCCWRT 24/25 Season Schedule

2025:

February 20 - Bernie Siler, *Parallel Lives - Washington DC in the 19th & 20th Century*

March 20 - Betty Shideler, *Death, and Mourning in the Civil War*

April 17 - Brian Baracz, *True Grit, General George S. Green at Antietam*

May 15 - Garry Adelman, *Civil War in the West Photo Extravaganza*

January Events

Saturday January 4 - Ambrose Powell Hill – The Enduring Mystery of Lee’s Enigmatic Corps Commander Matt Atkinson, Gettysburg National Military Park

From wearing a red battle shirt in combat to being placed under arrest during the Maryland Campaign in September 1862, “Little Powell” remains simultaneously well-known and enigmatic. Who was this subordinate that both “Stonewall” Jackson and Robert E. Lee called to on their deathbeds? Explore the remarkable life, personality, and command decisions of Ambrose Powell Hill, Lee’s mysterious general.

Sunday January 5 – “Acting as an agent for Governor Curtin” – David Wills and the Creation of the National Cemetery Dan Welch, Gettysburg National Military Park

More than any other, Gettysburg citizen and prominent lawyer David Wills ensured that the Union soldiers who gave their last full measure of devotion had a final and fitting rest place. From its conception in July 1863 until the dedication of the Soldiers' National Monument in July 1869, Wills worked tirelessly on the cemetery project, including the proposition of holding a dedication ceremony and supplying President Abraham Lincoln a quiet room to finish his "few appropriate remarks." Discover Wills' important work in the creation of the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg.

Saturday January 11 – The Pipe Creek Line: Meade Prepares for Battle
Chris Army, Licensed Battlefield Guide, Gettysburg National Military Park

Appointed to command the Army of the Potomac late during the unfolding campaign, General George G. Meade worked diligently and tirelessly to develop plans for his army. One such plan was the Pipe Creek Line. Examine the various planning activities that were involved in creating the Pipe Creek defensive line and evaluate why it became so important—or maybe it wasn’t—during this program.

Sunday January 12 – Buckeyes at Gettysburg

Wayne Motts, Gettysburg Foundation

The state of Ohio contributed significantly to the Union war effort during the American Civil War. At Gettysburg, some 4,400 Ohioans fought in the Union army during the three-day battle, while some Confederate soldiers in Lee's army had connections to the Buckeye state. Join historian, author, licensed guide, and president Emeritus and Historian of the Gettysburg Foundation Wayne E. Motts as he explores some unique stories of Ohio during the battle.

Saturday January 18 – The Battle of the Bulge - Hallowed Ground on a Vast Scale

Philip Brown, Eisenhower National Historic Site

In 1945 Walter Cronkite and Robert Musel referred to the Battle of the Bulge as a "Germany Gettysburg- representing the high tide of the enemy's ability to wage offensive war...." Their words proved to be true. The grueling fighting took place during some of the harshest weather conditions Europe had to offer and witnessed the last major push the Germans mustered in the Second World War. What legacy did the battle leave behind? How is the ground upon which it was fought preserved? What does this story tell us about preserving places like Gettysburg? Join Ranger Philip Brown as we explore each of these questions.

Sunday January 19 – Principles of Civil War Artillery

Tom Holbrook, Gettysburg National Military Park

Jennings Cropper Wise, in his authoritative work on Confederate artillery in Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, referred to this branch of service as "The Long Arm of Lee." Some of war's most dramatic moments, Malvern Hill, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg, are remembered for the devastating use of these guns. Yet, the role that field artillery played in the American Civil War is often underestimated by modern historians. This program will discuss the principles relating to the art of field artillery as put forth by famed artillerymen Henry Hunt, William Barry, and John Gibbon.

Saturday January 25 - Dropping Dimes-Holding Britain Accountable for Enabling Confederate Commerce Raiders during the American Civil War

John Fitzpatrick, Licensed Battlefield Guide, Gettysburg National Military Park

Ostensibly a "neutral" country during the American Civil War, Great Britain enabled the Confederate Navy to build eight state-of-the-art ocean-going commerce raiders. Those vessels preyed upon U.S. and Neutral-flagged vessels in international waters throughout the entire American Civil War. How did determined United States diplomats through three presidential administrations ultimately demand either war or actual damages—compensable accountability and liability—from Great Britain? Find out during this gripping narrative on the high seas.

Sunday January 26 – What About Wofford? - The Most Destructive Artillery Impact Documented at the Battle of Gettysburg

Laura Elliot, Historian

In 1878, fifteen years after the Battle of Gettysburg, Major General Lafayette McLaws lamented, "One company...had, by the bursting of a shell in its front as it went into the charge, lost thirty men...." Even a decade and a half after that moment on July 2, 1863, the aging general never knew that savage shell was the single most destructive artillery impact of the entire battle. Failing to identify which regiment that devastated company belonged, or brigade for that matter, nearly 150 years after writing of this episode of war, the mystery has finally been solved.



FCCWRT SNOW POLICY

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

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>

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. Board elections were held in November, but there is always room for those who will help with our mission.

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

Members are encouraged to submit items for our newsletter. I'm always looking for events to add period themed events that may not be part of a battlefield schedule.

Book Raffle

Since we're having our meeting via Zoom in December, there will be no book raffle. Please consider purchasing a book from our speaker at online sites, our previous and scheduled speakers as well!

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!! 2.7K likes and 2.8K follows !

.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 24-25 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.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org/>.

2024-2025 Board of Directors

Matt Borders, President /Webmaster

Bob Smart, Vice President

Bob Kozak, Treasurer

Roberta Legdon, Secretary

Gary Dyson, Facebook

Lucy Tannozzini, At Large

Joe Collins, At Large

Tom Dumm, At Large

For questions, comments or dues, contact:

FCCWRT

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

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