



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

322nd Meeting, 36th Season

Volume 48, Issue # 8

**April 17, 2025, 7:00 PM
National Museum of Civil War Medicine
48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland**



Speaker: Brian Baracz

Topic: True Grit-General George S. Green at Antietam

Students of the Battle of Antietam are familiar with the traditional Morning, Midday, and Afternoon Phases of Battle. These titles neatly package the twelve-hour fight into an easy to follow narrative. Unfortunately, this retelling overlooks many places and stories that unfolded across the field on that terrible day. Brian's presentation will focus on one of these overlooked events.

General George Greene and his division attacked through the Cornfield and eventually took up position behind the Dunker Church. Their story does not fit into the story of Antietam, but they were heavily engaged on some of the most popular spots visitors

see as they tour the field. We hope you can join us to learn more about this important action.

Brian Baracz grew up in Cleveland, Ohio but now calls Frederick, Maryland home. He has been fortunate enough to be a park ranger at Antietam National Battlefield for over 25 years.

In Case You Missed It...

At the March 20 meeting, Betty Shideler talked about death and mourning during the Civil War, and how this compared to previous burial traditions and customs. She also described the actions of notable women during the war.

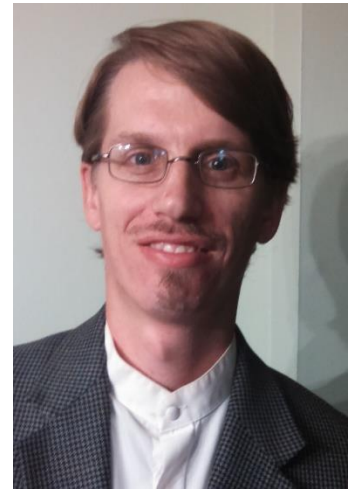


Prez Sez:

Coming off our discussion on the traditions of death and dying in the Civil War Era last month, this month we are looking at the bloodiest single day of the war, Antietam! Specifically, our speaker, National Park Service ranger Brian Baracz will be speaking on the actions of Brigadier General George Sears Greene. Greene is probably best remembered for his stubborn defense of Culp's Hill at Gettysburg, but ten months before that he commanded a division of the XII Corps in the bloody fighting through the East Woods and up Sharpsburg Ridge. Join us as we take a deep dive on this underappreciated officer and his actions on September 17, 1862.

As we move into the spring, be sure to keep an eye out for programming coming from our state and national parks. Antietam, Harpers Ferry, Monocacy, Gettysburg and Catocin are all posting their special events for the coming interpretive season. As is Fort Frederick, Cunningham Falls and Frederick Tourism. Now is a great time to start planning your visits for the coming summer and to get a sneak peek at what is ahead.

The same is true for our host, the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, be sure to check out the wide range of programs and events the museum is preparing and consider supporting them with your patronage. As you consider your summer plans, we look forward to seeing you on April 17, at 7pm at the Medical Museum!



*Most Respectfully,
Matt Borders,
President FCCWR*

April Book Review

Wide Awake: The Forgotten Force That Elected Lincoln and Spurred the Civil War, by Jon Grinspan, Bloomsbury Publishing, 352 pgs., pictures, notes, \$32.00(hardcover), ISBN 1639730648.

While the term Wide Awake is often identified by students of the American Civil War as a pre-war Republican political club, the author, Jon Grinspan proves that it was far, far more. The Wide Awakes were more than a mere club, but a true grassroots political movement that took the country by storm during the 1860 Presidential election. Started by, and driven forward through young men who, in many cases, would not be old enough to vote in the election. The Wide Awakes were a direct challenge to the old guard of the young Republican Party, a challenge to “fogieism” for control of what direction the party was to take. The 1860 election was only the second Presidential election the Republican Party took part in, but the efforts of the Wide Awakes made sure that the economically diverse base of the party was heard.

Started in the tidy industrial town of Hartford, Connecticut, by half a dozen friends, the first Wide Awakes were young men from a variety of skilled and unskilled professions. These youths were not unlike many today, voracious devourers of news media, reading and debating politics amongst themselves and looking for an opportunity to make a difference. They were highly motivated members of the new Republican Party, a mish-mash of former Know Nothings, Whigs, Northern Democrats, Free Soilers, Abolitionists and a number of other failed or played-out political organizations all drawn together as a “systematic order of hatreds”. What forged such an alliance? The growing realization that the slaveocracy, and those who supported it, were subjecting the country to being ruled by a minority, the whims of the enslaver.

This anger, and the desire to do something about it, to force some real resistance to the southern appeasing Democratic Party, manifested in the hard marching and campaigning Wide Awakes. Uniformed in black lacquered capes and caps with torches held high, the Wide-Awake clubs quickly spread from one side of the country to the other. Nominally a political club, almost from the beginning the Wide Awakes took it upon themselves to escort and protect Republican speakers at rallies, bringing them into direct contact with the often rough and tumble mob politics of the day. Their very presence was enough to enrage many a political street gang and while attempts were made emulate the movement by other parties, those efforts consistently paled against the supposed 500,000 Wide Awakes, (Grinspan believes this was closer to 100,000) that had marched by November 1860 had rolled around. This populist movement, first resisted, but finally embraced by the leaders of the Republican Party, worked hard to spread Republican talking points, suppress Democratic ruffians and finally rally behind their party's candidate, Abraham Lincoln. They worked right up to election day, escorting voters and watching the polls as well. Once the news broke of Lincoln's election, no one cheered louder than the Wide Awakes.

How these young men managed to make this happen, how they campaigned and what they did once the victory was won, is analyzed in detail. While many believed that the election of Lincoln meant their job was done, most quickly realized that they were still needed and indeed, with war clouds on the horizon, the work was not yet over. I highly recommend this fascinating and very readable study of this political movement.

FCCWRT 24/25 Season Schedule

2025: Just one more meeting and presentation for the season!

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

April Events at the NMCWM

Saturdays and Sundays in April- Twice on Saturdays and Once on Sundays- Walking Tours
“One Vast Hospital – Civil War Walking Tour in Downtown Frederick” begin. Please contact the Museum to register.

Other Events

April 13-Newcomer House, Sharpsburg, MD, 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM. Porch Program: Middle Bridge Interpretive Hike along the Tidball Trail. Former National Park Service ranger Matthew Penrod will lead a guided walking tour covering the Middle Bridge part of the Battle of Antietam.

April 26-27- Carroll County Farm Museum, 10:00 AM, 500 South Center Street, Westminster
2025 Living History Reenactment: Battle of Five Forks

April 27- America 250 History Fair, Carroll Creek Amphitheater, Carroll Creek Linear Park, Frederick. DAR, SAR, and Historic Sites Consortium present “A Walk-Through History,” highlighting Frederick County’s role in our War for Independence

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

Please arrive a little early for our meeting and participate in our 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.

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 has 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.frederickcountycivilwarrt.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.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