



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

323rd Meeting, 36th Season

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May 15, 2025, 7:00 PM
National Museum of Civil War Medicine
48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland



Speaker: Garry Adelman

**Topic: Civil War in
the West Photo Extravaganza**

The Civil War was the first war to be extensively photographed and, for the first time in history, the public was exposed to real-life images of the gruesome toll of battle. Today, historians, teachers and preservationists use these photographs to better understand American history and to restore battlefields. Although the majority of these photos were taken in a few eastern states, western Civil War sites were extensively covered as well. Through then-and-now techniques, tight details and several other approaches Garry Adelman will tell the

story of the Civil War in the West in his signature energetic manner. From Charleston to Chattanooga, Port Hudson to Pensacola, and from Savannah to Nashville, Shiloh, and the Shirley House, explore the War in the West and the photos that defined it.

In Case You Missed It...

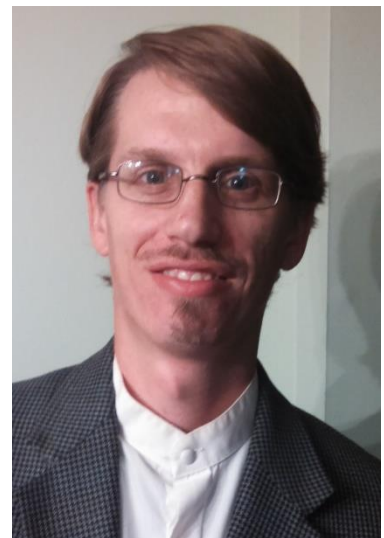
Ranger Brian Baracz speaking to the FCCWRT on Brigadier General George S. Greene and his actions at the Battle of Antietam



Prez Sez:

We have made it to another end of the season for the Frederick County Civil War Round Table! To cap off another great season, we are wrapping up with a very special speaker, the Chief Historian of the American Battlefield Trust, Garry Adelman! Garry will be presenting his Civil War in the West Photo Extravaganza program, definitely something you will not want to miss.

As we head into the summer break I want to thank the Frederick County Civil War Round Table board for their hard work this season. We made changes to the board this year with new members joining it and new jobs taken on. With their help, we have developed a great list of speakers for the 2025-2026 season. So, keep an eye out for the summer newsletter which will feature the upcoming speaker list and topics.



We will also be announcing the summer program and will have a sneak peek for our season opener in September. We hope everyone has a great summer and look forward to seeing you all at the season finale on May 15, at 7pm, at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine!

*Most Respectfully,
Matt Borders,
President, FCCWRT*

May Book Review

A Day In September: The Battle of Antietam and the World It Left Behind, by Stephen Budiansky, W.W. Norton & Co., 291 pgs., map, notes, \$32.50 (hardcover), ISBN 978-1-324-03575-6. Review by Matthew Borders

The Battle of Antietam was the single bloodiest day in American military history and the impact of the battle had ramifications that are still with us to this day. Last year, Stephen Budiansky published the most recent work on the battle, *A Day In September: The Battle of Antietam and the World It Left Behind*. On its face, and according to its cover flap, *A Day In September* is, "A masterful and fine-grained account of the battle, built around the intimate experiences of nine people whose lives intersected there..." Unfortunately, this is not the case.

Those chosen to be profiled include Generals Robert E. Lee, George McClellan, James Longstreet and Jacob Cox. As well as other military men such as Dr. Johnathan Letterman and Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. He also included civilian voices from Alexander Gardner, Clara Barton and President Abraham Lincoln. No one on this list would be unfamiliar to students of the American Civil War, though many are better known than others. The range of individuals should give a wide variety of views on the Battle of Antietam and its results. In many cases the author has included numerous anecdotes and interesting facts related to the subject of his essay. This does not always mean that he spends much time on the Maryland Campaign or the Battle of Antietam, however. His opening chapter on Robert E. Lee is a fine example of this. It is a succinct biography of the commander of the Army of Northern Virginia from his earliest years to West Point and the Mexican American War, to the Civil War. While the Maryland Campaign is set up, there is no analysis of the campaign itself. This pattern repeats itself to a greater or lesser degree throughout the entire work with each of the essays loosely tied together through the Battle of Antietam.

What I found most concerning was the structure of the book itself. Not a citation to be found. Mr. Budiansky has a deep interest in who he profiles and a passion for writing. He, however, does not cite where any of his facts, anecdotes or even quotes come from. Instead, he has "Notes on Sources" (pg. 259) in the back of the book which references the various works he used for each chapter, but not where in those works or where in his own book the information can be found. There is also an apparent lack of interest in more recent scholarship on the Maryland Campaign. Though he makes a passing reference to Hartwig's, *To Antietam Creek* and Schmidt's, *September Mourn*. He instead leans heavily into the classics, Sears's, *Landscape Turned Red*; Murfin's, *Gleam of Bayonets*; and McPherson's, *Crossroads of Freedom*. All fine works, however, all well over 20 years old and two of them over 40. The author seems almost dismissive of modern scholarship on the campaign, casting aspersions on, "a few brave historians to rehabilitate McClellan... (pg. 261)". While he does utilize the Official Records, the Carman papers, the writings of Jacob Cox and numerous primary sources, there is no mention of the works of Harsh, Clemens, Stotemyer or Rossino. He is willing to list his own work on military intelligence however, while still giving the Bureau of Military Information the wrong name (pg. 64).

Mr. Budiansky seems to be reaching throughout the work. Not just for the important moments in his subjects' lives, but for the points he is trying to make as well. Throughout the work he makes references to his subjects in other aspects of the Civil War, other battlefields, or events. He does this to highlight or point out some aspects of the historic figure. Points that often could be found

either during the Maryland Campaign or on the Antietam battlefield. While it is important to place Antietam, or any battle, into the larger context of the war, the book is supposed to be on the Battle of Antietam and yet it often strays far afield.

A Day In September is not a bad book, it is just not what it purports to be. While there is no deep look at the battle, nor the world it left behind, it does contain good information. Each historic character is well researched and written on for this work. They all have something to say about the campaign in their own way. By using their own words, the author shares their thoughts, feelings, triumphs and despairs on the bloodiest single day of the Civil War. If you are looking for good biographies of an important cast of individuals with ties to the Antietam battlefield, you will not be disappointed with this book.

FCCWRT 24/25 Season Schedule

Our May meeting is the last of this season. Our 2025-26 schedule will be shared soon!

May Events at the NMCWM

There are many tours and programs throughout the spring and summer at the Museum. You can check these out at the NMCWM or Heart of the Civil War websites for details and times.

Other Events



Antietam Institute Summer Lecture Series

The Summer Lecture Series is held in McKinley Hall at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Sharpsburg, MD every Monday evening at 7:00 pm. The program starts on June 2nd and runs through August 25th. No advance registration is required and the lectures are free and open to the public.

The church is located at 209 West Main Street with a small parking area off the alley. More parking is available on Main and Hall Streets. Each week there will be a drawing for an autographed book or a Civil War print. This summer there will be historians and scholars discussing their latest works and research about the Maryland Campaign and the Civil War.

2025 Lecture Schedule

June 2 – Robert M. Dunkerly *The Final Attack at Antietam*

June 9 – Joe Stahl and Matt Borders *Soldiers from the 29th Massachusetts, the forgotten Irish Brigade Regiment*

June 16 – Sarah Kay Bierle *"Directed to Take Command": Winfield S. Hancock & Antietam's Sunken Road*

June 23 – Michael S. Lang *From The Brazos To The Antietam & Beyond: The Story of the Fifth Texas Volunteer Infantry Regiment*

June 30 – Darin Wipperman *"I Am Bullet Proof:" The Last Four Months of a Fifth Corps Soldier*

July 7 – Dr. Alex Rossino *Before September: The Origin of the 1862 Maryland Campaign*

July 14 – Dr. Brad Gottfried *Texas Brigade at Antietam*

July 21 Tom McMillan *"Little-Known Antietam: Henry Winters and 'Mystery and Murder at the Lodge'"*

July 28 – Jim Rosebrock *Organization of the Federal Artillery in the Civil War*

August 4 – Tracey McIntire *The Fate of Antietam's Wounded*

August 11 – Steve Stotemyer *Little Mac at the Front*

August 18 – Dr. Jen Murray *Meade at War: General George Meade and the Army of the Potomac, 1861-1865*

August 25 – John Schildt *Frederick, the Crossroads of the Civil War*

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. 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 2.9K followers!

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.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