



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

328th Meeting, 36^h Season

Volume 51 Issue # 4

December 18, 2025
National Museum of Civil War Medicine
48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland

Speaker: Stephen Romaine

Topic: 1864 American Insurrection.

ZOOM Presentation Museum of Civil War Medicine YouTube channel
found here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/nmcwm/videos>

1864 American Insurrection
Stephen Romaine

The failure of Confederate clandestine operations in the latter part of the American Civil War to prevent Lincoln's reelection are generally attributed to ineptness, poor planning, and a last-minute loss of nerve by the collaborators. There is some truth to this, yet it is undeniable that the Lincoln Administration received an early leg-up on Rebel plans that proved consequential. The essay presents how a highly effective counter-insurgency effort was put in place that prevented the opening of a northern front that could very well have derailed Lincoln's reelection.



Stephen Romaine Bio

Stephen Romaine is author of *Secret Army Behind Enemy Lines*. He has published articles for *Emerging Civil War* and *At Home and In The Field*, published by Society for Women and the Civil War. He was also a keynote speaker at SWCW's July 2023 Conference. He has done extensive research "connecting the dots" on espionage during the American Civil War. He has an English degree from Villanova University and a Masters in Financial Management from Fairfield University. He has worked for IBM, Oracle and Hewlett-Packard, as well as several start-ups. He also ran his own consulting firm.



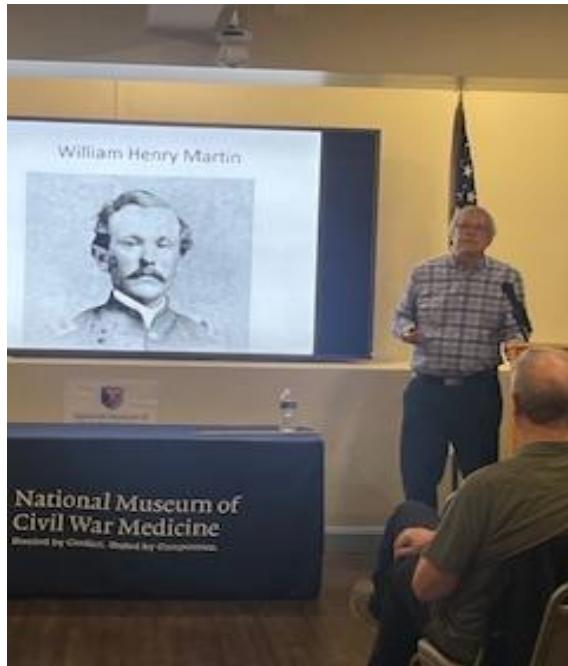
In Case You Missed It... November 20, 2025

Carleton Young spoke about the Vermont Brigade in the 6th Corps of the Army of the Potomac – Voices from the Attic: The Williamstown Boys in the Civil War.

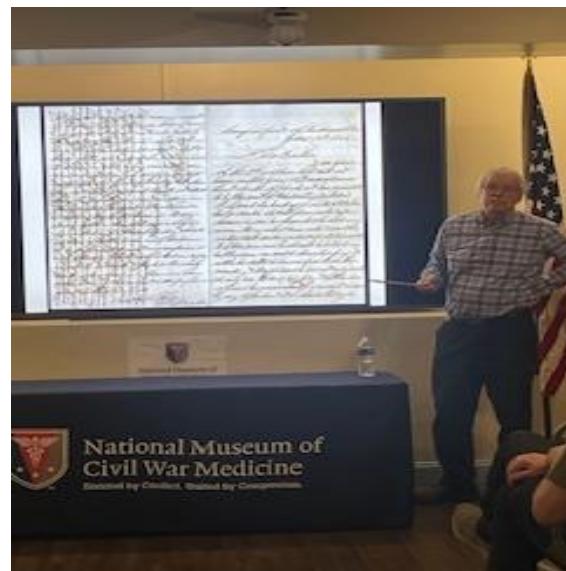
Two brothers were members of the celebrated Vermont Brigade in the 6th Corps of the Army of the Potomac. In his book he tells the story of these two brothers who witnessed and made history by fighting in the Peninsula Campaign, then at South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Mine Run, the Bristoe Campaign, the Wilderness, Petersburg, and Cedar Creek. They then preserved that history through their surprisingly detailed and insightful letters.

Imagine finding over 400 letters in a trunk in your fathers while cleaning out your father's attic! That is what Carleton and his wife (who helped him read and compile) the story of two soldiers during the Civil War, but not knowing why the letters were there. Faced with that situation, Carleton Young spent more than a decade visiting battlefields and researching the two soldiers as well as other people who appear in the letters.

Picture of one of the Brothers, William Henry Martin



Picture of one of the actual Letters



Prez Sez:



The Frederick County Civil War Roundtable would like to wish all of our members a very happy holiday season and best wishes for the New Year.

This month is a Zoom meeting only. Be sure to sign onto the National Museum of Civil War Medicine YouTube channel at 7pm on December 18th. Our speaker is coming to us from overseas and will be speaking on the tumultuous year of 1864! Think politics and society are wild today? You won't want to miss this talk.

As for last month's logo vote, thank you to everyone who participated. The winning logo draft will now be used to make a brand new and fully unique to the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable logo. In the next few months you will see this changed in our newsletter, social media and on the website. This was the first time the logo was updated since the founding of the roundtable and it's fantastic how many members participated.

So, remember changes to the look are coming and this month's meeting, December 18, is a Zoom only presentation.

Most Respectfully,
Matt Borders,
President,
FCCWRT

December Book Review

By Matt Borders

Hooves, Paws, and Claws for the Cause: Animals in the U.S. Civil War by Bradford Wind Stone, NMCWM Press, 121 pgs., notes, index, pictures, \$12.95 (paperback), ISBN 979-8-9851185-2-0. Review by Matthew Borders

If you are looking for a great little stocking stuffer for the coming holidays, I highly recommend Hooves, Paws, and Claws for the Cause. Written and produced by the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, this book looks at the stories of some of the unlikely volunteers for the Cause, the animals. Not just the beasts of burden either, but the wide variety of mascots and companion animals that made life on campaign or in camp a little easier. Some of these stories you may have heard before, but especially for some of the more exotic, you probably have not.

While the majority of the book goes into detail on the wide variety of animals used and valued by both sides in the war. It also touches on the science behind the use of animals in everything from transportation to tools. The book even goes into the some of the unique creepy crawlies and how they were utilized, including silkworms, maggots and rats! It takes a look at some of the real uses of animals, while also dispelling myths surrounding others.

On top of the known scientific use of animals, the American Civil War also saw some of the first real steps to formalize veterinary science in the United States. As noted in chapter 5, in 1861 there were only 50 formally trained veterinarians in the United States, all of whom had received their degrees outside the country. Instead, the nation had relied on farriers or "Horse Doctors" for generations and as the name implies, what medical knowledge they had focused on horses alone. Though this focus on horses remained, due to the horse drawn nature of the war, the United States Congress authorized the Army Veterinary Service in 1863. It, along with the military-controlled Cavalry Bureau, made significant advancements in procurement, training and rehabilitation of horses during the war.

Very understandably, Hooves, Paws, and Claws for the Cause leans heavily into the hooves. Hundreds of thousands of hooves. There are three chapters dealing with horses and mules specifically, as well as the chapter on veterinary medicine and a shout out to ambulance horses as well. Between the cavalry, artillery, transportation and medical needs of the war, it is estimated that between 1.2 and 1.5 million equines were lost during the conflict. As was with the fighting men, disease was the primary killer of hoof stock. Malnutrition, overcrowding, and a misunderstanding of transmission exacerbated infections and spread diseases such as glanders, hoof and mouth, and a variety of hoof ailments. The sacrifice of these animals is remembered today with two different monuments dedicated to war horses, one in Richmond, the other in Middleburg, Virginia.

Besides the grim statistics though, Hooves, Paws, and Claws for the Cause also looks into the dozens, if not hundreds, of mascots that marched off to war with the men in both blue and gray. Some of these, especially the dogs, you have likely heard of, but the wide variety of animals and the care they received from their human companions is moving to read about. This element of animals in the war is broken down into two chapters, Practical Mascots and mascots as companions. On the practical side, how small animals assisted the United States Navy, the army and even the Balloon Corps are looked at. While dogs, cats, raccoons, sheep, pigs, an eagle and even bears and badgers were lovingly kept and served with the men in the ranks as companions throughout the war.

Hooves, Paws, and Claws for the Cause closes out with a discussion on how animals continue to serve to this day. Be they hoof stock or the sort of animal friends we have in our homes, the history of animals in the American Civil War is long and far more complex than one might think. Definitely a fun, informative read.

Membership Reminder

Don't forget to renew your membership.

That can be done by cash or check at our meetings, or you can utilize the PayPal link that can be found on the Frederick County Civil War Round Table website or by mail of the application attached below.

Dues and donations go directly to making our seasons possible, covering our speakers' honorariums, as well as our rent

FCCWRT 25/26 Season Schedule

2026:

January 15, 2026: Bob Crickenberger - Point Lookout

February 19, 2026: John Muller - Frederick Douglas in Western Maryland

March 19, 2026: Jim Rada - Battlefield Angels: The Daughters of Charity

April 16, 2026: Paige Palmer - John Wilkes Booth

May 21, 2026: Dr. Brian Jordan - Marching Home

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>

Other Events

Battle of Falling Waters 1863 Preservation Pathway Engraved Brick Campaign

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to order your engraved brick today!

<https://www.fundraisingbrick.com/online-orders/bofw/>

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?>

December Events at the NMCWM

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

Living History: Civil War medical care comes to life at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine

December 13 @ 11:00 am - 4:00 pm EST



Join us on Saturday, December 13th from 11

a.m. to 4 p.m. for living history at the Museum. Members of the Blue and Gray Hospital Association will be in the Delaplaine Randall Conference Room describing the medical history of America's bloodiest conflict. Dressed as members of the Confederate medical department and armed with period medical equipment, the unit brings a unique perspective to understanding the conflict.

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 25-26 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/>.

2025-2026 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.frederickcountycivilwarrt.org