



Banner of the Blue and Gray

Newsletter of the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable Frederick, Maryland
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329th Meeting, 36th Season

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January 15, 2026

Speaker: Robert E. Crickenberger, Jr.

Topic: “Point Lookout and the Second Wave of Prisons”

In Person Presentation:

**National Museum of Civil War Medicine
48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland**

“Point Lookout and the Second Wave of Prisons”.

As the Civil War progressed into its third bloody year, federal campaigns were sending thousands of prisoners north in numbers that overwhelmed existing prisons. Furthermore, the forced cessation of a prisoner exchange cartel compounded the burden of the already overcrowded prison system, further denying the Confederate government of its much-needed manpower. By mid-1863, a desperate Commissary General of Prisoners, Colonel William Hoffman, began scouring the northern states, seeking locations to build new camps to better manage this sudden influx of prisoners. Hoffman’s latest prison, Point Lookout, began the succession of new holding areas in what is now referred to as the “Second Wave of Prisons”.



About the Author

Born in Washington D.C., Robert E. Crickenberger Jr., has lived in Southern Maryland for over sixty years. He has been a husband, father, and grandfather for almost fifty years and a veteran of the United States Navy, having served during the Vietnam War era from 1971 to 1977.

Robert began his forty-plus-year sojourn as a volunteer and living historian at Point Lookout State Park in 1978. He has continually served as President of the Friends of Point Lookout and is a Historic Weapons Safety Officer for the Maryland Park Service. Mr. Crickenberger has been awarded the title of Honorary Ranger for the Maryland Park Service for his dedication and organization of historical events and has been instrumental in the reconstruction and restoration of both the Civil War fort (*the only earthen fort that remains in the state of Maryland*) and the Civil War prison site.

Mr. Crickenberger has researched and studied the topic of Civil War Point Lookout for over forty years. His presentations on the occupation of Point Lookout are based on that extensive research he has accumulated in those years. Robert has utilized both Confederate and Union accounts to conduct tours of the historical locations, including the Confederate prison, federal occupation, and their auxiliary sites. He has written and assisted in designing many of the historical interpretive signs exhibited throughout Point Lookout State Park and the park's tour book and museum.

In 2025, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Historic Preservation Commission of St. Mary's County, Maryland for his contribution to the historical preservation of Civil War Point Lookout. His first book, ***Point Lookout, Maryland. The Civil War's Largest Prison*** is scheduled to be released February 15, 2026, by Savas Beattie Publishing (LLC).

You Missed It...

December 18, 2025



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.

Prez Sez:



Happy New Year from the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable board! With the changing of the year we are now almost halfway through our 2025-2026 season. To start us off in the New Year is Bob Crikenberger, a long-time volunteer both around here, but especially down along the Chesapeake at Point Lookout State Park. This site has numerous connections to the Civil War and the campaigns that passed through Frederick County but is probably best remembered for being the largest of the Federal Prisoner of War Camps. Bob has written a new history on Point Lookout and will be sharing the history and his research with us.

Thank you as well to everyone who was able to join us last month for our December program. This program was unique, not only because it was a live stream, but because our speaker, Stephen Romaine, was overseas. While originally streamed through the National Museum of Civil War Medicine Facebook, this program, *The 1864 Insurrection that Wasn't*, can now be found on the Medical Museum YouTube channel.

However, for January 15, 2026, we will be back in person at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine at 7pm and we hope you can join us!

*Most Respectfully,
Matt Borders,
President,
FCCWR*

January Book Review

By Matt Borders

"He Is Our Colonel and We Are His Soldiers" by James R. Droegemeyer, NMCWM Press, 116 pgs., notes, index, pictures, \$5.99 (paperback), ASIN B004RCLW0E. Review by Matthew Borders

If you are looking for a solid regimental history on the 106th New York Infantry, this is not it. That being said, *He is Our Colonel and We are His Soldiers*, does offer a unique perspective on the regiment. Written by James Droegemeyer, this work follows Colonel Edward James from roughly August 1862 to August 1863, essentially the period that the regiment was stationed in Western Virginia. The book is based off Colonel James war time writings and is told through the view of a fictitious soldier. This style has given the author an incredible amount of leeway, as he can view the regiment and its men from essentially any angle he needs to.

Reading this book was not an attempt to choose a random regiment to research. The 106th New York was one of the veteran VI Corps regiments rushed to Monocacy Junction in early July 1864. Obtaining a deeper knowledge of that regiment and its service, particularly during the summer of 1864, was the primary reason I picked up this book. Though that aspect of their service is not looked at, there are still some excellent details regarding the development and first year of service for these New Yorkers. Because the work is based so heavily on Colonel James' writings, there are details that would have been unknown to just about anyone else at the time. It is very clear, very quickly, that the colonel of the 106th New York wants to have the best regiment he can and is personally involved, not only in the military aspects of their service, but also the logistics of their service. There are extensive descriptions of supplies and supply shortages, delays in payment and requisitions for tents.

Colonel James was not the regiment's first commanding officer and by the time of his arrival in August 1862, he is trying to bring the 106th New York up to the same level as the regiments around them. Some of those regiments, the 106th New York will serve alongside their entire enlistment, such as the 126th Ohio, which makes an appearance while they are stationed in Western Virginia. It is interesting to note that the 106th New York was almost transformed into a Zouave regiment, and the details of their proposed uniform (black with yellow!) are gone over in detail. The regimental band also received significant attention from Colonel James in the first year of the regiments service. It is particularly interesting to note the band as the Federal Government had significantly downsized bands by July 1862, so for the 106th New York to essentially have a full brass band in the winter of 1862-1863 was somewhat unique.

While *He is Our Colonel and We are His Soldiers*, was not what I expected, it was still a good, fast read that provided a lot of detail and insight into the lives and living conditions of the common soldier during the American Civil War. I would have liked more citations, but the excellent use of images and the fast pace of the book did help with its readability as well.

FCCWRT 25/26 Season Schedule

2026:

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>

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?>

January 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.

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.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.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.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.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.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