



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

329th Meeting, 36^h Season

Volume 52 Issue # 1

March 19th, 2026
7:00pm

In Person Presentation

Speaker: James Rada, Jr.

Topic: Battlefield Angels: The Daughters of Charity

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

Presentation Summary:

When the Civil War broke out, the Union and the Confederacy were prepared to fight, but they weren't prepared to care for the wounded that their fighting created. While many people volunteered to care for the soldiers, the only ones with any experience were Catholic sisters.

Among the sisters, the most-experienced were the Daughters of Charity based in Emmitsburg, MD. When war broke out, they had already been caring for the sick for decades. However, the brutality of the war would test even their abilities as they ran hospitals, served on troop transports and provided care in battlefield hospitals and ambulances. They even had their own Central House occupied by armies from both sides of the war.

The Daughters of Charity had such a high level of trust among the government officials that they were allowed in the early part of the war to move back and forth across the border between the two warring countries. Nor did they betray that trust as they served officers and soldiers, Union and Confederate, with the same level of care.

With their wide, white cornettes looking almost like wings, the Daughters of Charity did resemble battlefield angels. The sight of those wing-like cornettes told soldiers that relief was on the way; someone who cared for them was coming.

Author Summary:

James Rada, Jr. is an [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) bestselling author of historical fiction and non-fiction history. He also writes a weekly local history column for the Frederick News-Post that runs on Saturdays. He has received numerous awards from the Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association, Associated Press, Maryland State Teachers Association, Society of Professional Journalists, and Community Newspaper Holdings, Inc. for his newspaper writing.

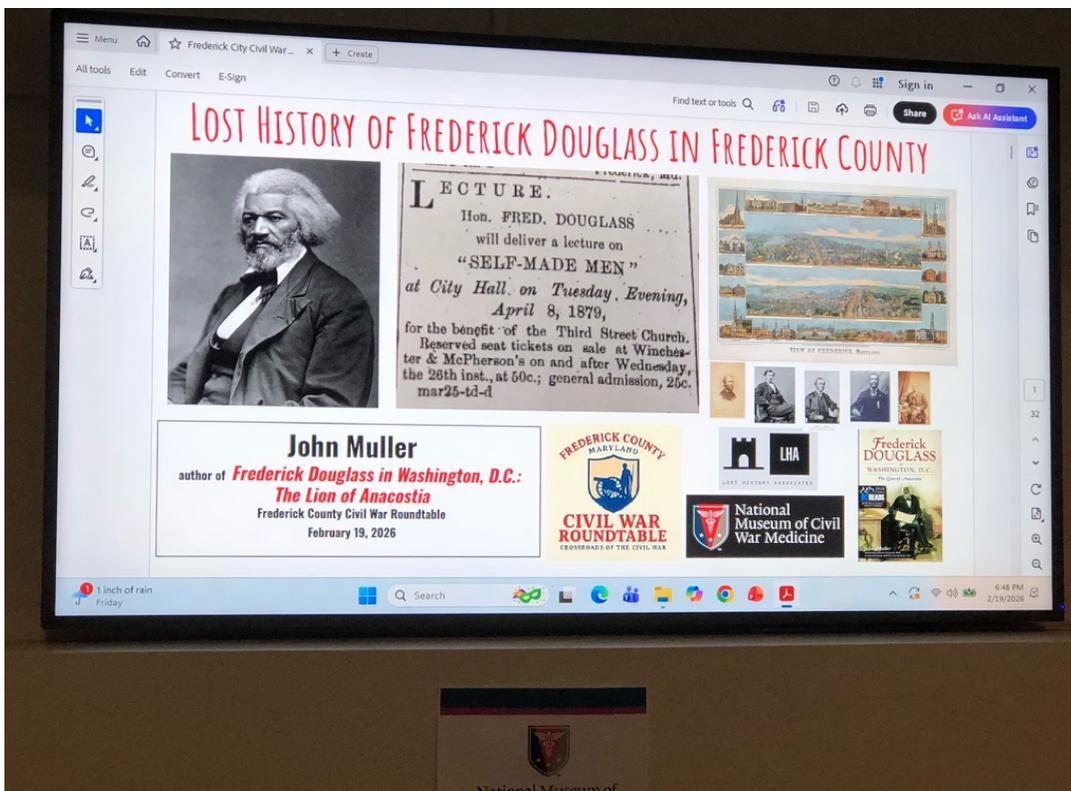


James Rada, Jr

Look what you Missed! February

Speaker: John Muller

Topic: "Frederick Douglass In Western Maryland"





John Muller has been researching the visits and connections of Frederick Douglass to Western Maryland for more than a half-decade which will (finally!) culminate in the forthcoming book *Frederick Douglass in Western Maryland* later this year. John is the author of *Frederick Douglass in Washington, D.C.: The Lion of Anacostia* (2012) and *Mark Twain in Washington, D.C.: The Adventures of a Capital Correspondent* (2013).

Prez Sez:



Thank you to everyone who braved the weather last month. We had a great presentation from John Muller on Frederick Douglass in Western Maryland and I wanted to share a portion of his thank you note:

Thank you for your kind hospitality last week and for the opportunity to present some discursive notes on Frederick Douglass in Frederick City and within the greater region. Thank you to the Civil War Medicine Museum for recording and posting the presentation.

Your two organizations have an informed and engaged membership that ensures local history is recognized and preserved.

So well done and keep up the great engagement!

As mentioned last month, the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable Board sent a letter of support for the preservation of the Emmittsburg Toll House to the Frederick County Historic Preservation Board. This is an example of the preservation advocacy that the roundtable mission calls for, and we were happy to do it. We will continue to keep you apprised of this situation and other preservation efforts as they develop.

Speaking of Emmittsburg, this month we have author Jim Rada speaking on the Daughters of Charity! Based outside of Emmittsburg, Maryland, these ladies did crucial work caring for the sick and wounded during the war. So join us on Thursday, March 19, 7pm at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine to hear all about it!

Most Respectfully,

Matt Borders,

President,

FCCWR

March Book Review

By Matt Borders

"Five for Freedom: The African American Soldiers in John Brown's Army" by Eugene L. Meyer, Lawrence Hill Books, 282 pgs., notes, index, pictures, \$26.99 (hardback), ISBN: 978-1-61373-571-8. Review by Matthew Borders

The story of John Brown's Raid is supposedly well known to us. Harpers Ferry is a mere half hour away and Frederick responded to the raid in 1859 with its three militia companies. Many of us are aware that sadly the first casualty of the raid was a free African American man by the name of Haywood Shepherd. What though of the other African Americans involved in the raid? The five men who had gone with John Brown as part of his little army of liberation. Their part in this catalyst of the Civil War and their fate has been mostly ignored or forgotten. *Five for Freedom* looks to rectify that oversight by diving deep into the lives of **Osbourne Anderson, John Copeland, Shields Green, Lewis Leary and Dangerfield Newby**. Two of these men did not survive the raid, two were hanged on December 16, 1859, two weeks after John Brown, while one escaped capture.

The story of these five men has numerous twists and turns. Osbourne Anderson, John Copeland and Lewis Leary for example were all free men with ties to the abolitionist movement and underground railroad. Shields Green and Dangerfield Newby were both formerly enslaved, Green having escaped and Newby having been freed when his white father moved the family to Ohio. With such different lives *Five for Freedom* does a good job developing the history of each of these men, their genealogy, their movements and finally, their motivations for joining in such a potentially dangerous endeavor as the Raid on Harpers Ferry.

The work also delves into the era itself and how the African American population survived and prospered in the 1850's north of the Mason-Dixon Line. In some cases far north, for the community of Chatham, Canada West, had a big role to play in the lives of those of African decent and the plans of John Brown. So too did Oberlin, Ohio, the home of Oberlin College, the first college in the country to accept African American students. The activism and downright resistance to the slave trade and the fugitive slave laws of the 1850's coming from Oberlin was driven by these very men and the Oberlin Antislavery Society they were a part of.

Five for Freedom concludes by looking at the memory of the raid and at Harpers Ferry itself. In 1867, Storer College was established at Harpers Ferry. Its extensive role in higher education for African Americans became not only a beacon to those who looked favorably upon John Brown's memory, but a target for those who did not. The college later embroiled itself in the controversy over the Haywood Shepherd memorial, put up by the United Daughters of the Confederacy as a deliberate attempt to promote the "loyal slave" narrative, as well as the John Brown memorial plaque. The raid itself casts a long shadow over Harpers Ferry that directly impacted the Centennial of the Civil War and how the National Park Service protects and preserves the historic town today. A fascinating and highly readable work.

FCCWRT 25/26 Season Schedule

2026:

April 16, 2026: Paige Palmer – VIDEO Presentation- 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?>

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 Civilwarmed.org or Heart of the Civil War websites for details and times.

- **March 10 @ 4:30pm After Hours at the Museum: Artifacts & Stories**
- **March 12th @ 4:30 History Pub Crawl Downtown Frederick**
- **March 17th @ 7PM VIRTUAL EVENT LIVE ON FACEBOOK - Damian Shiels presentation about his book Green & Blue**

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.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org