



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

329th Meeting, 36th Season

Volume 52 Issue # 1

**February 19th, 2026
7:00pm**

Speaker: John Muller

Topic: "Frederick Douglass In Western Maryland"

**In Person Presentation:
National Museum of Civil War Medicine
48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland**

Presentation Summary:

Learn about the lost history of the April 1879 visit of United States Marshal Frederick Douglass to Frederick City and his benefit address at the present-day Brewery's Alley on Market Street for Quinn Chapel African Methodist Church and its pastor Rev. Francis J. Peck, Sr. The visit to the Spire City was part of a tri-county canvass Douglass made of Western Maryland over a 6-month period in 1879 that included high profile visits to Hagerstown in Washington County and Cumberland in Allegany County. The presentation will utilize a variety of source material to provide new details about the associations and connections the famed abolitionist and 19th-century Civil Rights leader maintained with Fredericktonians, including Dr. Lewis Henry Steiner, Captain Henry Clay Naill and the annual organizers of Frederick City's Emancipation Parade.



About the Author

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). He has presented throughout the Baltimore and Washington metropolitan area for several organizations and at venues including the Library of Congress, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, DC Public Library, Politics & Prose Bookstore, Gaithersburg Book Festival, Manassas Museum, as well as the Washington County Free Library, Frostburg State University, Allegany County Public Library and Potomac State College in Keyser, West Virginia. He has previously presented to the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable. John has been featured on C-SPAN's Book TV and C-SPAN's American History TV, as well as on television and radio in DC and Baltimore, as well as in the pages of the *Frederick News-Post* for his research on Frederick Douglass. He is a librarian, journalist, tour guide, baseball umpire and father of a 9-year old and 3-year old. His family has a small ticket plan for the upcoming Frederick Keys baseball season.

John Muller

<https://tinyurl.com/LostHistoryTours>

202.236.3413

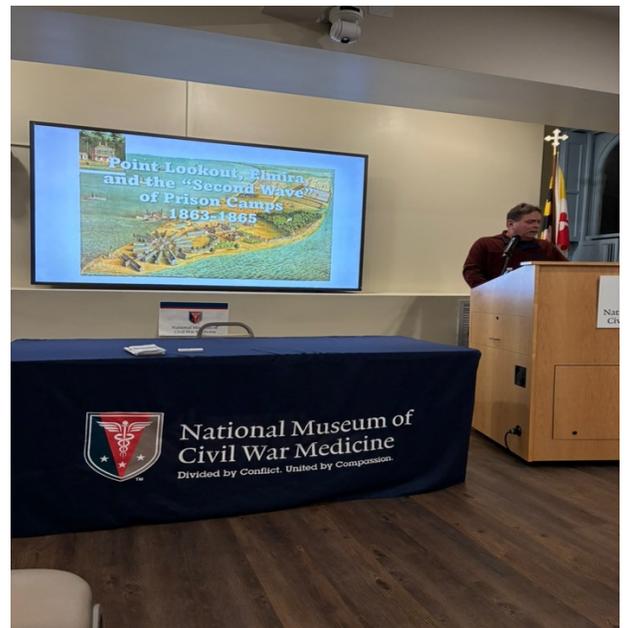
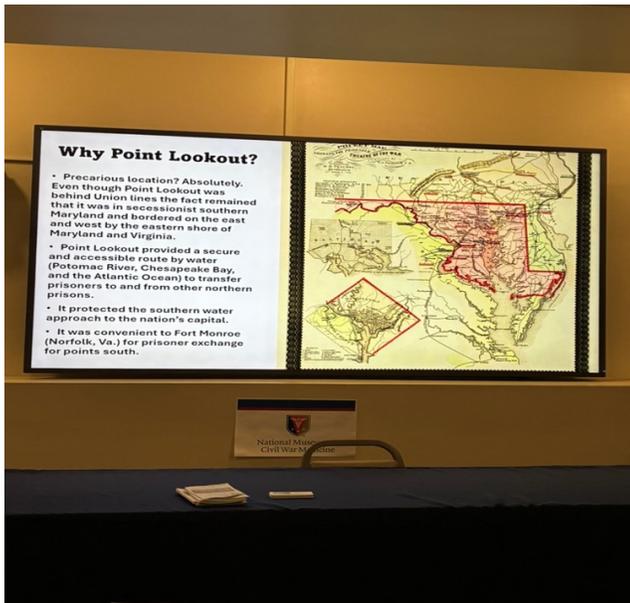
Capital Community News | Greater Greater Washington | Washington Syndicate | Washington Informer

[*Frederick Douglass in Washington, D.C.: The Lion of Anacostia*](#) [The History Press, 2012] Winner of 2013 DC READS

[*Mark Twain in Washington, D.C.: The Adventures of a Capital Correspondent*](#) [The History Press, 2013]

Look what you Missed! January

Point Lookout, Elmira, and the “Second Wave” of Prison Camps 1863-1865



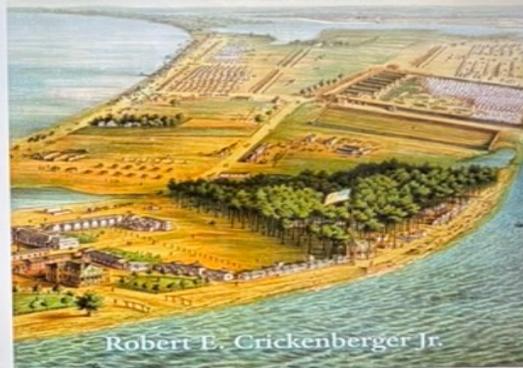
Mr. Robert E. Crickenberger, Jr.'s book came out of 30 years of research. The beginning of his presentation focused on Colonel William Hoffman who was a prisoner of war at his time of appointment to Commissary General of Prison's. He was out raged as he wanted to go back into his Regiment. He was one of the officers that went to the Military Academy. He was very brave and strict in regulations. He reported directly to the Secretary of War. Franz Lieber a lawyer was sent to be his assistant and the Lieber Code -treatment of prisoners- was enacted during this time. Surgeon Dr Augustus M Clark was also sent to help. Point Lookout Maryland held 5,000 prisoners but by the end had close to 9,000 and had to expand. There was also a hospital built on the property. There is great diorama of the Point Lookout Prison in the National Museum of Civil War Medicine that you can view along with boards from the prison fence. Mr. Crickenberger's book will be released on February 15, 2022, please pick up a copy!

New Release

- Release date – February 15, 2026
- Savas-Beatie Publishing.
- 384 pages.
- 34 images.
- 5 maps.
- Savas-Beatie Publishing (LLC)
- <https://www.savasbeatie.com/point-lookout-maryland-the-largest-civil-war-prison>

Point Lookout, Maryland

THE LARGEST
CIVIL WAR PRISON



National Mus

Prez Sez:



Last month we had a great presentation on Point Lookout, down there in southern Maryland. As we heard its history and connections stretch far beyond that narrow peninsula out to the Chesapeake. One aspect that dovetails nicely with this month are the United States Colored Troops that were present at Point Lookout. This month our speaker will be presenting on the man who advocated for what became the USCT since the beginning of the Civil War, Frederick Douglass.

Specifically, we will learn about Douglass's local and regional connections. His visits to Frederick, Maryland and beyond, particularly in the years following the war. Douglass was advocating for the newly freed by supporting what became the 14th and 15th Amendments.

Also, now that we are well into winter, when it comes to Frederick County Civil War Roundtable it is important to remember the snow policy. If Frederick County Public Schools are closed on the same day as a roundtable meeting, that meeting is cancelled. If the school system has a delayed opening on the same day as a roundtable meeting, we will proceed with the meeting, as long as our host, the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, is open.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting, February 19, 2026, at 7pm in the meeting room of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine!

Most Respectfully,

Matt Borders,

President,

FCCWR

January Book Review

By Matt Borders

The Washington Arsenal Explosion: Civil War Disaster in the Capital” by Brian Bergin, History Press, 126 pgs., notes, index, pictures, \$19.99 (paperback), ISBN: 978-1-60949-793-4. Review by Matthew Borders

Near the end of 2025 I had the privilege of visiting Congressional Cemetery in Washington, DC with a friend. I had read about Congressional many times and the wide variety of individuals who were interested there, but this was my first visit. I was incredibly impressed with the size of the cemetery and the wide range of mortuary art to be found there. One such monument however captured my attention more than others, a somewhat simple column crowned with a young woman, apparently in mourning. As it turned out, this was the final resting place of the majority of the victims of the June 17, 1864, Washington Arsenal explosion. While I had heard of the arsenal explosion, I knew very little about it and was very pleased to find a book covering the tragedy in the small cemetery shop.

It is important to know that while Rosie the Rivetter made women working in war time industry famous, this had been done by previous generations too. During the American Civil War girls as young as 12, but most in their late teens and twenties with some older, worked in the arsenals across the United States, north and south. These ladies worked out of both patriotism and for financial benefit as there was a real need. It was also widely believed at the time that women were more dexterous, particularly with their hands, making them especially qualified for tying off cartridges. This process closed the paper cartridge with the bullet and powder inside by a process known as choking, where a small string or thread was used to tie the cartridge closed or choke it off. Thousands of cartridges were filled and choked six days a week, ten to twelve hours a day by these ladies. All for about half of what a male arsenal worker was paid.

The book covers not only the work being done at the Washington Arsenal but also peeks into the lives of the workers themselves. Who were these young ladies, what were their motivations for such labor and what was the neighborhood, known as The Island, like that most of these ladies came from?

The disaster itself is covered in as much detail as possible using the newspaper accounts of the day and the reports produced by both the Ordinance Bureau and the Coroner’s Report. The extent of the tragedy hit the working-class neighborhood of DC particularly hard and there was extensive coverage of the funeral that was organized and implemented for the arsenal workers themselves. There were 21 victims who died from the explosion and dozens more were maimed and scarred by the fire that destroyed the cartridge manufacturing laboratory. The terrible cost of the accident even moved the normally hard-bitten Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, to immediately send a note of sympathy to the workers of the arsenal and inform them that the funerary costs of those lost would be covered by the War Department.

A grim piece of history for sure, but an important one. Revealing not only this often overlooked or forgotten aspect of the larger war, but also the humanity that can exist even after the most tragic of events.

FCCWRT 25/26 Season Schedule

2026:

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

- February 14 @ 4:00pm----History on Tap: Civil War Beer Tasting
- February 21 @ 2:00 – 3:00pm Civil War Prisons and Trauma Andersonville, PTSD, EMDR, and Self Care

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