

Banner

of the **Blue and Gray**

Newsletter of the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable
Frederick, Maryland
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<http://frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org>



195th Meeting

May 2010

Vol. 36 Issue 9

*Don't miss the food and fun
at our 3rd annual
PICNIC!*

Our 3rd annual FCCWRT summer picnic will be held on Saturday, July 24, at the picnic shelter at Gathland State Park near Burkittsville, Md. This year's picnic features several special events providing a full afternoon of interesting activities and good food.

FCCWRT Board member and historical guide Jack Sheriff will lead off our afternoon with a tour, which is optional, of the South Mountain battle site of Crampton's Gap beginning at 12:30 PM.

A picnic lunch featuring Watson's famous fried chicken will begin at 2 pm, followed by a presentation on battlefield artillery.



This year's special program, "How Artillery Was Used During the Civil War," includes a live firing demonstration of a Civil War cannon, along with a brief overview of the Battle of South Mountain, some of which took place in the Gathland area. Ranger Al Preston of the Maryland State Park System and members of the South Mountain State Battlefield Artillery Detachment will conduct the presentation.

Following the live demonstration of how the cannon crew works as a team to load, aim and fire the cannon,

(Continued on Page 2, See PICNIC)

May Meeting

Thursday, May 20, 2010

7:30 PM

at the

**National Museum
of Civil War Medicine**

**48 East Patrick Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701**

**Speaker: David Shackelford
Chief Curator**

Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum

Subject: *The B&O Railroad in the Civil War*

Our Speaker

David Shackelford, Chief Curator of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum in Baltimore will explore the critical role the B&O Railroad played throughout the Civil War — for both North and South.

When War was declared in 1861, the B&O was a mere 34 years from its date of charter and still a fledgling operation with 513 miles of track all located south of the Mason-Dixon line. The track stretched northwest from Baltimore to near Frederick where it turned south and meandered through river valleys to the Potomac, crossing at Harpers Ferry into the Confederate state of Virginia. (It would be two years before Harpers Ferry joined the Union as part of the newly minted state of West Virginia.)

With the B&O operating mostly in Maryland, a border state with mixed sympathies, and Virginia, the cradle of the Confederacy, each



David Shackelford

side recognized the need to control this vital pipeline and staked a claim. B&O President John Garrett faced dueling loyalties. A Southerner by birth and sympathy, Garrett was well aware that the geographic location of his rail line and commercial opportunities for the company's future both pointed to supporting the Union cause.



John Garrett

Larry E. Johnson summed up Garrett's decision in his article "Baltimore & Ohio Railroad: The Union's Most Important Supply Line" in the March 2006 issue of *America's Civil War* magazine: "John Garrett's wily leadership, and his ability to separate his company's interests from his personal preferences and side with the Union, allowed the B&O to remain a viable company through most of the War, despite the hardships visited upon the rail line."

And the hardships were many. During the conflict, the railroad suffered the destruction of bridges, trestles, locomotives and miles of track, and Garrett personally endured scathing attacks by editorial writers in both North and South who viewed him and his motives with suspicion throughout the War.

Mr. Shackelford's program will focus on the key events from 1861 to 1865 that involved the B&O and how "America's First Railroad" was impacted by both Union and Confederate forces.



As Chief Curator, Mr. Shackelford manages the daily operations of the Smithsonian-affiliated Museum including oversight of the Museum's extensive collection of locomotives and rolling stock and their restoration efforts.

Mr. Shackelford holds a Master's Degree in history from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He was previously employed by the National Archives and Records Administration, the Maryland State Archives. He also served as Assistant Director of the Ellicott City B&O Railroad Station Museum and is an active member of the American Association of Museums.

Mr. Shackelford and his wife have two children.

The Prez Sez



May brings to a close our 2009-2010 season, but don't forget our FCCWRT Picnic being held Saturday, July 24, at Gathland State Park (See our story on page 1). Sounds like an exciting picnic this year! Phil Dean has worked diligently on coordinating this event, and I hope you all will join us there.

Otherwise, enjoy your summer. I'm looking forward to seeing all your faces again in September. Your capable FCCWRT Board will be working over the summer months to assemble another lineup of interesting and educational lectures for the coming 2010-2011 season.

As always, my wishes for Health and Happiness to you all.

Donnie

PICNIC (continued from Page 1)

we will have the opportunity to get up close to the gun and handle the loading tools (for safety reasons, in a "dry firing" situation *only*).

Following lunch and the artillery presentation, we can tour the small museum at Gathland State Park that highlights the life and times of Civil War newspaper correspondent and writer George Alfred Townsend and also features the Battle of Crampton's Gap.

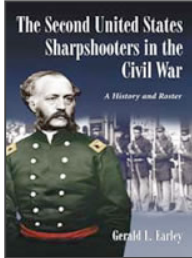
Townsend was the youngest war correspondent of the Civil War era and later became a novelist writing under his pen name Gath, the source of the park's name. In 1884, he purchased land on South Mountain to build a summer writing retreat and from then until his death in 1914, he constructed more than 20 individual buildings. Some have been restored and park visitors may view the remains of others. Perhaps his most unusual and most memorable structure is the unique War Correspondents Memorial Arch, built in 1896 and dedicated "To the Army Correspondents and Artists 1861-65. The memorial has the distinction of being the only monument ever erected to commemorate journalists who died in battle.



Save the Date — July 24! Bring friends and family members who might enjoy a wonderful picnic lunch and these interesting activities. We will send you more information and a registration form prior to the picnic — but be sure to put it on your summer calendar now!

The Bookshelf

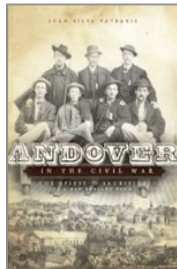
The Second United States Sharpshooters in the Civil War: A History and Roster by Gerald L. Earley. Photographs, regiment battle records, battlefield maps, regimental roster. Hardcover, 253 pp., 2009. McFarland, Box 611, Jefferson, NC.



Vietnam veteran and lifelong student of the Civil War, Gerald L. Earley provides a well-researched account of the highly trained elite regiment of Second U.S. Sharpshooters and their commander, Col. Hiram Berdan. Using a combination of published and unpublished materials, and adding his own educated judgments, the author details the regiment's origin, training, special weaponry including the ultra-accurate Sharps Rifle and battle action at Gettysburg and Chancellorsville, among many major conflicts. The author shows how Berdan's Sharpshooters were at times misunderstood and misused. He further contends that the regiment often played a more critical role in Civil War battles than recognized in historical accounts. Earley's entertaining, well-written book paints a riveting portrait of a regiment that has served as a model for the specialized fighting units of modern-day armies.

Andover in the Civil War: The Spirit & Sacrifice of a New England Town by Joan Silva Patrakis. Photos, 128 pp., 2009, The History Press, Charleston, SC.

Drawing from primary sources including letters from soldiers and local newspaper reports, Joan Silva Patrakis offers insight into the impact of the Civil War on the home front, focusing on the small New England town of Andover, Mass., and the men of the Andover Light Infantry. Andover, home of the Andover Theological Seminary and Phillips Academy, supported the anti-slavery movement long before War erupted. The small town sent 600 sons into battle; 100 of them never returned. The author details the full effects of the War on the soldiers and their loved ones at home, as well as the town's efforts to support the cause.



Suggested summer reading . . .

Abner Doubleday: His Life and Times, Looking Beyond the Myth by JoAnn Smith Bartlett. Illustrated, 269 pp., 2009, Xlibris Corp., Bloomington, IN.

The author covers the whole of Doubleday's life, including his time at West Point, Fort Sumter, Gettysburg and beyond — and explodes a few myths in the process. A fascinating, well-written, well-researched biography.

The First Assassin by John J. Miller. Novel, soft cover, 376 pp., 2009, www.heymliller.com.

This skillful page-turner about the plot to kill Lincoln is the perfect novel for a long afternoon at the beach.

Calendar of Events (May through August)

Through Sept. 19, Washington, DC, Exhibit commemorating 150th Anniversary of Civil War "Discovering the Civil War," Lawrence F. O'Brian Gallery of the National Archives. Largest ever display of the Archives' vast collection of letters, diaries, photographs, map and more. Related film and lectures. Free. Information: www.archives.gov.

May 15, Col. John Mosby Van Tour, VA, 8AM-5PM "In the Footsteps of the Gray Ghost" tour with David Goetz. Visits sites in Western Prince Georges, Loudon and Fauquier counties. Fee includes admission to special sites, lunch. For information, reservations, 703-365-7895, www.pwcgov.org/brentsville.

June 5, Railway Festival, Manassas, VA, 10AM-5PM 16th Annual Manassas Civil War Heritage Railway Festival. Games, displays, tours and crafts. Free. Museum admission is \$1. Additional information: 703-368-1873, manassasmuseum@ci.masassas.va.us.

June 12-13, Recruit Weekend, Pry House Field Hospital Museum, Antietam National Battlefield, Keedysville, MD, 11AM-5PM

Receive a surgeon's certificate of eligibility and report to Union and/or Confederate recruiting stations to learn what the armies offered. Receive enlistment papers and have the chance to drill with your new units. Further information: 301-416-2395, www.civilwarmed.org.

June 25-27, Lincoln Assassination Tour, District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia

Shenandoah Civil War Associates presents "The Lincoln Assassination: Path of the Conspirators." Visits to Navy Yard, Ford's Theatre, among many sites. All-day Booth escape route tour including Dr. Mudd's House. Information: www.shencivilwar.org. Registration: 540-568-8043, James Madison University.

June 26, 27, Living History, Westminster, MD

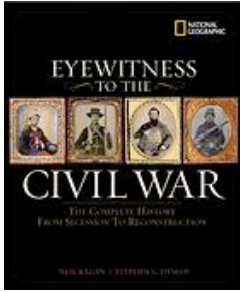
147th anniversary of Corbit's Charge. Military & civilian scenarios, battle site walking tours, parade, memorial ceremony. Saturday evening meal, Sunday church service. Pre-registration required, \$5. Information and registration: 410-876-8249 or Pipe Creek Civil War Round Table, www.pccwrt.org.

July 10-11, Encampment, Reenactments, Frederick, MD

Reenactors and living historians commemorate Rose Hill Manor's role as an encampment site for Union and Confederate soldiers in September 1862 & July 1863. Battles, 2PM Saturday & Sunday. Children's Museum tours, demonstrations. Candlelight tour of Union & Confederate camps, 7-9PM. Information: 301-600-1646, www.rosehillmuseum.com.

Ramblings from the Raffle Table

Friends, our Special Raffle winner for April was Board member Jeff Arey.



Our Special Raffle item for May will be a National Geographic classic in hardback: *Eyewitness to the Civil War, The Complete History from Secession to Reconstruction*, graciously donated by member (and one of our favorite speakers) Betsy

Estilow. Tickets will be \$2 each.

Since May will be our last meeting until September, our Special Raffle drawing will be held at this meeting. As always, we have an exciting 3/\$1 raffle, too! So, Spring forth and get on board!

[Calendar of Events](#) (continued from Page 3)

July 10-11, Living History, Battle of Monocacy Anniversary, Frederick, MD, from 8:30AM

146th Anniversary of Battle of Monocacy at Gambrill Mill, Urbana Pike. Union & Confederate encampments similar to those during Gen. Jubal Early's raid on Washington. Infantry and mock artillery demonstrations. For information, Brett Spaulding, 301-662-3515.

July 16-18, Reenactment, Union Mills, MD

146th Anniversary of General Meade's Pipe Creek Line. Original site of Syke's 5th Corps encampment before Gettysburg. Saturday tactical & battles; Sunday battle. Registration \$5 by June 1; afterwards, \$10. In-information, reservations: ThePipeCreekLine@aol.com.

July 17-18, First Manassas Battle of Bull Run Anniversary, Manassas, VA, 10AM-4PM

Encampment of soldiers in 1861, Henry Hill battlefield, commemorating 149th Anniversary of Battle of Bull Run. Musketry demonstrations, artillery firing, park ranger tours. \$3 fee for 16 and up. For more information: 703-361-1339.

July 24, 3rd Annual FCCWRT Picnic, Gathland State Park, Burkittsville, MD, 12:30-4PM

Optional historian-guided tour of Crampton's Gap. Picnic lunch followed by live cannon firing demonstration. Tour of noted Civil War correspondent George Alfred Townsend's home and estate that became Gathland State Park. Members and guests are welcome. For information: www.frederickcountycivilwarrt.org.

August 28-29, Second Manassas Battle of Bull Run Anniversary, Manassas, VA, 10AM-4PM

148th Anniversary of the Second Battle of Bull Run in 1862. Historian-led interpretive walking tours, living history and historic weapons demonstrations. \$3 fee for 16 and up. Information: 703-361-1339.

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.

2009-2010 Board of Directors

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Communications, dues, questions or comments for the Roundtable should be directed to:

FCCWRT

P.O. Box 3232, Frederick MD 21705-3232

www.frederickcountycivilwarrt.org

[Looking ahead ...](#)

Our season is fast coming to a close, and we will be holding our annual election of officers at our May 20 meeting. The following Board members are completing their second year of service and will be up for re-election:

Donnie Toms, President
Phillip Dean, Vice President
Dottie Toms, Director
Jeff Arey, Director

The 2010-2011 season begins with our first meeting on Thursday, Sept. 16, at 7:30 pm. Over the summer, our FCCWRT Board will be lining up speakers for the coming year. Check our website for regular updates on speakers and events planned for the coming season.

See you at the picnic!