



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

Our 250th Meeting!

April 2016

Volume 42, Issue 8

April 21, 2016 at 7:30pm National Museum of Civil War Medicine 48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland



Speaker: John Edward
Murphy

Topic: The Crown of
Mexico, Foreign
Incursion during the Civil
War

While the United States was pre-occupied by Civil War, the French (Second Empire) under Napoleon III deployed armed troops (including Foreign Legionnaires) to Mexico. His motive --- to establish and bolster a Hapsburg monarchy in Mexico.

A Hapsburg monarchy in Mexico? Foreign Legionnaires operating “south of the border”? European mischief in North America? An affront to the Monroe Doctrine? America’s reaction? The outcome of this venture?

John Edward (Ed) Murphy will cover these questions during his presentation during our April 21st meeting. Ed is a member of the DC Civil War Roundtable. He participates as a speaker in community-based history forums in northern Virginia. He also is a contributor to The Wild Geese web site, <http://thewildgeese.irish/>, a site devoted to Irish culture, history, and stories. He has contributed several stories. If you’re interested do a search of “John Edward Murphy” at the top of the page or through the site’s blogs. One of his most interesting stories (not Civil War related) is at

http://thewildgeese.irish/profiles/blogs/irish-survivor-of-hiroshima?utm_source=WGT+General&utm_campaign=a85590630cWeek_of_June_27_2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1adbaacadf-a85590630c-418165413.

Ed is the principle of a management consulting firm he founded after retiring from Federal service. He obtained a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Accounting) degree from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. He is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM), and a Certified Professional Contracts Manager (CPCM).



March Meeting Highlights



At our last meeting Matthew Borders presented “From Dred Scott to Secession.” The key events that led our nation to the brink of Civil War were discussed from the South Carolina tariff revolt during the Jackson era to “Bloody Kansas” and John Brown’s Raid. His primary emphasis was on the role of Supreme Court Justice Roger Brooke Taney’s influence on some of these events and his evolving stance on slavery. In his early career his views had been anti-slavery even though he

was not an abolitionist, but after his appointment as Chief Justice his position changed from somewhat neutral towards slavery to definitely pro-slavery by the time of the Dred Scott (Dred Scott versus Sandford) decision. The Supreme Court ruled 7-2 against Dred Scott and denied him his freedom, and Taney believed that this decision would solve the question of slavery and Congress’ authority over it once and for all. Unfortunately his statement explaining the decision ended up driving an even deeper wedge between the states.

Taney’s explanation regarding that decision resonates to this day, especially in the City of Frederick. A movement to have the Taney monument removed from its current location to another site for display or storage is in progress. Look for further updates on the monument decision on the City of Frederick’s website or local newspapers.

NEARBY APRIL EVENTS

Monocacy Battlefield Annual park cleanup

April 2- This event is sponsored by the Civil War Trust from 9AM-Noon. Meet at the Visitor's Center, 5201 Urbana Pike, Frederick, MD. Contact Tracy Evans at 301.662.3515 or the battlefield's website

<http://www.nps.gov/mono> for more information.

Help preserve your battlefield and environment in this annual cleanup sponsored by the Civil War Trust! YOU can make a difference by volunteering.

Ed Bearss Symposium: Military Leadership & Combat

April 7-10 – This event features speakers and guides including Ed Bearss, Lt. Colonel Ralph Peters, Tom Clemens, Dana Shoaf, Steve Bockmiller, and others. Covering Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, WWII and bus tours of Gettysburg Day 2 and Brandywine Battlefield. Based in Chambersburg, Pa.

Stonewall Jackson in the Valley

May 19-22 - Weekend will include tours of Lexington, Va. and Jackson battle sites of 1862 in the Valley. Featuring the following speakers and guides: Ed Bearss, Dr. James "Bud" Robertson, Keven Walker, Jeff Wert, Jerry Holdsworth, and others. Based in Harrisonburg, Va.

Gettysburg Day 3 & Beyond

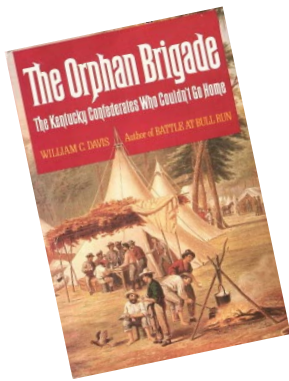
July 27-31 – With Ed Bearss, Jeff Wert, Carol Reardon, Eric Wittenberg, Wayne Motts, Steve French, and others. Tours of Gettysburg off the beaten path, East Cavalry Field, the Retreat, and more. Based in Chambersburg, Pa.

Lincoln at Gettysburg

Sept. 22-25 - Featuring Joe Mieczkowski, John Schildt, David T. Dixon, Ed Steers, and others. Includes bus tour following Lincoln's path to giving the Gettysburg Address, sessions on the sixteenth president, and tour of Civil War sites in Harrisburg. Based in Chambersburg, Pa.

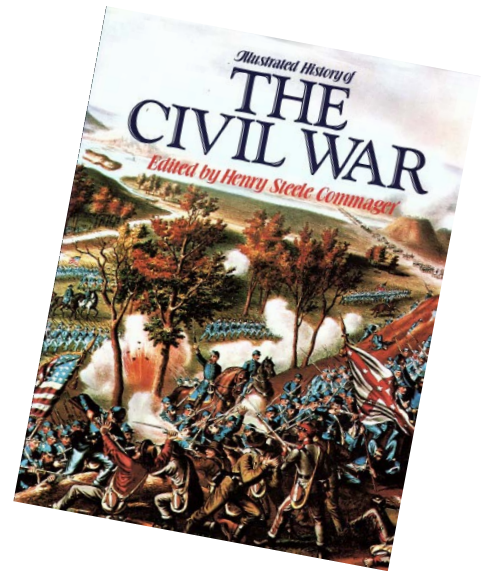
Ramblings from the Raffle Table

It's hard to believe that just a year ago we were commemorating Lee's surrender at Appomattox. It was certainly worth the trip (although a very long day) to be present at that living history event. There was a television show (not quite as long ago as 150 years) that initiated me into the wonderful world of history – "You are There" and that day I felt that I was there in that moment in time. But rather than feeling a sense of closure, being at the McLean house that day simply whetted my appetite to know more about the men who fought for four long years and the families who loved and too often lost those men.



much farther afield.

Because sometimes the minutia of detail that we have in the many volumes that bow our book shelves is more that we want to know at any given time, I offer this wonderful overview of the 'war of northern aggression' or the 'war of the rebellion of 1861' (or by whatever other term you wish to call it) compiled and edited by Henry Steele Commager. Maybe this will be perfect for a son or nephew (am I being sexist here? For shame!) to help them understand why you are so fascinated by this long ago conflict.



See you at the Raffle Table, Kathi

PS: We always welcome materials that you would like to recycle through our monthly raffle. Thank you!

PREZ SEZS

For fine dining and some local history I can recommend the OLD SOUTH MOUNTAIN INN at Turners Gap, atop South Mountain. Founded in 1732 as a stop-over it became popular on the National Road hosting early leaders such as Gen. Braddock, Lt .George Washington, and Sen. Henry Clay just to name a few. During the Civil War Conf. Gen. D.H. Hill used the Inn as his head quarters during the battle of South Mountain. Following the war the Inn became the private residence of Madeline Dahlgren wealthy widow of Adm. John Dahlgren famous for his muzzle loading canons. Mrs. Dahlgren also built (across the road, still standing) her own personal chapel, now used for special events.

Try to eat there or visit the area on a nice day, you won't be disappointed.

Jack



We are on Facebook! Please check out our page for timely updates, local events, or comments.



<https://m.facebook.com/fccwrt>

Gary Dyson is our "face" for Facebook.

Help us spread the word about OUR FCCWRT!!

Join Facebook. Share posts with friends! You'll get more timely notice of events when you check us out on Facebook. Now over 100 "likes."

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.

Looking Ahead

At our May meeting our presenter will be Gordon Dammann on the topic We History vs. Hollywood hope to see you there on Thursday, May 19th, our last meeting of the season!

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We're always looking for new members to join our ranks! Recruit your friends!

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! Please ask your friends to join we can do even more!

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

Our yearly dues are:

- \$30.00 for an individual
- \$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 may be downloaded from our website at <http://www.frederickcountycivilwarrt.org/>.