

# Banner

## of the Blue and Gray

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

<http://frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org>



196th Meeting

September 2010

Vol. 37 Issue 1

### THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE CIVIL WAR

*"In great deeds something abides. On great fields something stays. ...and generations that know us not...heart-drawn to see where and by whom great things were suffered and done for them, shall come to this deathless field to ponder and dream..."*

— Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain at the 1889 dedication of the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine monument at Gettysburg

As we begin our 2010-2011 season, we stand on the threshold of a very special time in history — the beginning of the four-year commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War. A mere 24 years after the end of the war, Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, educator, governor and Little Round Top hero, envisioned the need of our children, and our children's children, to someday walk in soldiers' steps on once-bloody fields, to understand the struggle, to appreciate the sacrifice that made our nation whole.

In light of the coming Sesquicentennial, Jim Lighthizer, president of the Civil War Preservation Trust, recently reflected on Chamberlain's inspired words and their meaning for us all:

On the eve of the Civil War's 150th anniversary, we are faced with a challenge that Chamberlain and his comrades could not have predicted — the relentless destruction of these battlefields by development and sprawl. ...

As we remember the profound events of the Civil War, contemplating the ways in which it has shaped our nation, we must also look to the future. We must embrace the sesquicentennial period as an opportunity to improve our intellectual perspective on the past. We must also look upon it as our chance to complete the altogether fitting and proper work of protecting these battlefields for future generations. ...

Long after the final commemorative lectures have concluded and all the special museum exhibits are packed away, preserved battlefield land will continue to stand as a permanent and tangible tribute to the memory of the brave soldiers North and South.

— Excerpted from "Reflecting on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil War" by permission of the Civil War Preservation Trust

### September Meeting

Thursday, September 16, 2010

7:30 PM

at the

National Museum  
of Civil War Medicine  
48 East Patrick Street  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Speaker: Steven R. Stotelmyer

Subject: *The Real Barbara Fritchie*

### Our Speaker

*"Shoot me, if you must, this old gray head,  
But spare my country's flag," she said.*

With these often-quoted lines from John Greenleaf Whittier's famous poem, "Barbara Fritchie," Dame Barbara as Whittier called her became a Civil War legend and one of Frederick's best-known folk heroes.

Local historian and author, Steven R. Stotelmyer, will discuss Frederick's own Barbara Fritchie and explore the myth vs.

the real woman. Steve will also discuss Gen. Jesse Reno, known as a "soldier's soldier," who died in the Battle of South Mountain.

As the legend of Barbara Fritchie goes, during General Lee's Maryland Campaign of



Steven Stotelmyer

1862, as Gen. Stonewall Jackson led his Army of Northern Virginia through the streets of Frederick City past Barbara Fritchie's house, the elderly Mrs. Fritchie bravely waved the Union flag in an act of defiance of the Confederate army.



Barbara Fritchie was born 10 years before the signing of the Declaration of Independence and died at age 96 in 1862, three months after she became the heroine of what Steve Stotemyer calls perhaps the greatest myth in American history. According to Steve, even if Whittier had not immortalized "Dame Barbara," she would still be an interesting historical figure in her own right.

Another historical figure from 1862 is Gen. Jesse Reno. Virginia-born and educated at West Point where he was a classmate and good friend of Stonewall Jackson, Reno was not one to lead his troops from a distance. Instead, he was known for standing shoulder-to-shoulder with fellow-soldiers in battle, without regard to rank. He was struck down by a Confederate sharpshooter in September 1862 at Fox's Gap in the Battle of South Mountain. A memorial marks the spot where he died on the South Mountain Battlefield. In the years following his death, the U.S. Army named three forts in his honor.



Steve Stotemyer is a native of Hagerstown, Md. As a child, he and his sister played among the monuments at Antietam National Battlefield during their many family picnics at Philadelphia Brigade Park. When he graduated from high school in 1968, he enlisted in the United States Navy and served as a radar man on a destroyer. Returning to civilian life, he earned a B.S. degree from Frostburg State College and an M.A. from Hood College. He is currently employed by a civil engineering firm in Charles Town, WV.

Steve's lifelong interest in local history, especially South Mountain and Antietam, led him to help found the Central Maryland Heritage League. The League has been successful in acquiring land on the South Mountain Battlefield, an area often overshadowed by Antietam. In 1992, he published *The Bivouacs of the Dead*, the story of those who died at Antietam and South Mountain. He has also written magazine articles about the Civil War in Western Maryland.

## The Prez Sez



For all of you who are missing them, our annual July Picnics just keep getting better and better. Phil outdid himself this year. Our picnic was well-attended, even though it was a criminally hot day. Luckily, we were well-located in a shaded and breezy pavilion in Gathland State Park.

Our members again fed us like the fatted calf, with a good variety of pot-luck dishes. Our special presentation Cannoneers were pleasant and interesting dining companions.

They educated and entertained us royally. Jack Sheriff's tour received great reviews from those who joined him. Hopefully, next Summer you all will attend. I'd love to see



you there. Specifics for next year's event will be published, as always, in our Banner and on our newly-designed website. If you have any suggestions or requests for locations of future picnics, contact Phil, or any Board Member. We always welcome your input.

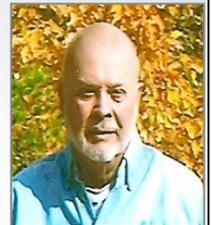
Also, I thank my capable Board for filling in for Dottie and me at last May's meeting, so that we could welcome our newest family member, sweet Evie.

Looking forward to enjoying our 2010-11 Season with all of you.

**Donnie**

### *In memoriam*

Tom Rees, one of our most active members passed away on May 31. Tom's wife, Barbara, said he really enjoyed all of the Roundtable speaker programs and activities and looked forward to our Thursday night meetings. Tom will be missed by each of us.



All of us at the Roundtable extend our deepest sympathy to his beloved wife, Barbara.

## At the picnic . . .

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual picnic at Gathland State Park was a rousing success with the largest crowd we've ever had. Jack Sheriff's tour of South Mountain Battlefield led off the afternoon, followed by a great lunch and a special program on artillery with a live firing demonstration of a Civil War cannon. A good time was had by one and all.



## At Rosehill . . .

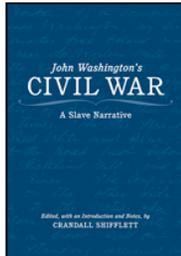
On the steamy weekend of July 10-11, FCCWRT members manned our display table at the annual Rose Hill Manor Civil War Encampment and distributed information about the Roundtable.



## The Bookshelf

***John Washington's Civil War: A Slave Narrative***, edited by Crandall Shiflett. Soft cover, illustrated, bibliography, index, 128 pp., 2008. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, LA.

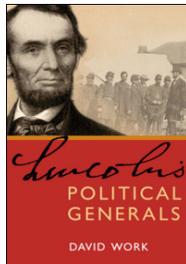
Meticulously edited by Virginia Tech University history professor Crandall Shiflett, this memoir written in



1872 by a Virginia slave provides an unprecedented, firsthand account of the life and times of a slave in the Civil War era. Unlike most slaves, John Washington learned to read and developed management skills, which led to a factory job, a position as steward of a hotel slave staff in Fredericksburg, Va., and eventually to become an aide and guide for a captain in the 30<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers. Washington's recollection of his tribulations growing up a slave and his adventures uncovering Confederate sympathizers in Union-occupied Fredericksburg is thoughtful and revealing.

Professor Shiflett has significantly enhanced Washington's narrative by adding background information based on public records at the end of each chapter, which places events in the historical context of the broader struggle between North and South. Washington's vivid account and Shiflett's excellent editing combine to make this volume an invaluable primary source in understanding our nation's history.

***Lincoln's Political Generals*** by David Work. Hard cover, photographs, bibliography, index, 320 pp., 2009. University of Illinois Press, Champagne, Ill.



Winner of the Hay-Nicolay Prize of the Abraham Lincoln Association and the Abraham Lincoln Institute, this volume by history writer David Work is a well-written assessment of how and why Lincoln chose his cadre of generals to conduct the war effort. When the war began, Lincoln was faced not only with a shortage of well-trained, experienced military men, but also with the need to garner political support to build a national coalition. The author studies 16 generals, half Democrat, half Republican, appointed by Lincoln for political reasons. Some succeeded; others failed and were eventually relieved of command.

Work's detailed, thorough study explores Lincoln's political genius in making the controversial appointments and how these decisions ultimately influenced the outcome of the war. In the end, the author concludes that, overall, the political generals were influential in shaping national politics and policies, including slavery, and made a positive contribution toward winning the war.

## Calendar of Events

### **Through Sept. 19, Washington, DC, Exhibit commemorating Civil War Sesquicentennial**

"Discovering the Civil War," Lawrence F. O'Brian Gallery of the National Archives. Largest ever display of Archives collection of letters, diaries, photographs, maps and more. Followed by Part II Nov. 19-April 17. Information: [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov).

### **Sept. 17-19, Antietam National Battlefield, MD**

Grand opening of Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area Welcome & Exhibit Center at Newcomer Farm on the battlefield. 11AM-4PM each day. For information: 301-791-3246, 302-432-5124.

### **Sept. 24-26, Seminar/Tour, Chambersburg, PA**

Weekend devoted to Lee's life and career with Ed Bearss, Richard Sommers & Matt Penrod; includes bus tour, "In the Footsteps of Lee and His Lieutenants." Information: 717-264-7101; [www.chambersburgcivilwarseminars.org](http://www.chambersburgcivilwarseminars.org).

### **Oct. 1-3, Civil War Medicine Conference, Towson, MD**

18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Civil War Medicine, Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel, Towson. historians, authors & medical professionals will discuss a variety of topics. Information: 301-695-1864, [www.civilwarmed.org](http://www.civilwarmed.org).

### **Oct. 1-3, Civil War Photo Seminar, Gettysburg, PA**

10<sup>th</sup> Annual "The Image of War" seminar. Photo tours of major battlefield area, wetplate demonstration, 3D show. Information: 301-834-7042 or [jkon@civilwarphotography.org](mailto:jkon@civilwarphotography.org).

### **Oct. 2, John Brown's Raid Tour, Harpers Ferry, WV**

Tour guide and FCCWRT Board member Jack Sheriff leads a 3-hour driving & walking tour of John Brown's raid from Kennedy Farm to Harpers Ferry, Optional dinner follows at the Bavarian Inn. Information: 301-371-4148, [jbsheriff1@comcast.net](mailto:jbsheriff1@comcast.net).

### **Oct. 2, Mosby Symposium, Winchester, VA**

Symposium & Benefit "A Day with Colonel Mosby" from 10AM-4PM at Winchester-Frederick County Conservation Club to benefit the 3<sup>rd</sup> Arkansas. Speakers include Eric Buckland & Dave Goetz. Period music, food, book signings. Admission \$18 over age 12. Further information: 540-664-7820, [Kimberly@tunerashby184.com](mailto:Kimberly@tunerashby184.com).

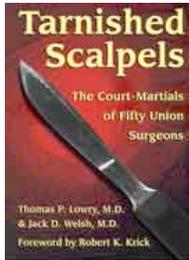
### **Oct. 2, Civil War Letters, Blue Ridge Summit, PA**

"Civil War Letters by Campfire," Rolando Woods Lions' Club Park, Blue Ridge Summit, 7:30PM. Historical accounts of local civilians and soldiers. Information: [www.emmitsburg.net/montereypass](http://www.emmitsburg.net/montereypass).

## Ramblings from the Raffle Table

Friends, our Special Raffle winner last May was member Bill Atwell. Congratulations, Bill.

Sue Shatto, Proprietress, Victorian Millinery, recently contributed several books from her library to our cause. These books appear on our table this month. Many thanks, Sue.



Our Special Raffle for September is one such book, a twice-autographed copy of *Tarnished Scalpels: The Court-Martials of 50 Union Surgeons* by Thomas P. Lowry, M.D., and Jack D. Welsh, M.D. Raffle tickets are \$2 each. As always,

a fun 3/\$1 Raffle, including Sue's donations, will be available. Come check out our table!

## October Tour of John Brown's Raid

Jack Sheriff, local tour guide and FCCWRT Board Member and Archivist, will lead a three-hour driving and short walking tour of John Brown's Raid on Sat., Oct. 2.

The tour will retrace the steps of the infamous Brown who, in October 1859, attempted a raid at Harper's Ferry and was later hanged. The tour will begin at the Kennedy Farm, then to Old Town Harpers Ferry, and conclude with a dinner, which is optional, at the Bavarian Inn where Dick Crosier portraying General Lee and John Brown's direct descendant Earl J. Brown, are scheduled to appear.

Cost of the tour is \$20 per person, \$5 for students. A portion of the proceeds will go to FCCWRT supported causes. For more details and dinner reservations, contact Jack Sheriff at 301-371-4148 or [jbsheriff1@comcast.net](mailto:jbsheriff1@comcast.net).

## 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.

## 2010-2011 Board of Directors

<b>Donnie Toms</b> , President	301-668-8660
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<b>Phillip Dean</b> , Vice President	301-865-8202
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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.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org](http://www.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org)

## Antietam Announces Grand Opening of New Visitor Center



With a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sept. 14, Antietam National Battlefield will officially open its new, and first, visitor center in the historic Joshua Newcomer House. The farmhouse, on the grounds of the battlefield near the Pry House, was built in the 1830s. The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area Welcome and Exhibit Center is the result of a joint effort between the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau and

Antietam National Battlefield. The heritage area center will focus on Washington, Frederick and Carroll counties and feature a main room and three exhibit rooms.

A grand opening weekend is scheduled for Sept. 17-19. According to John Howard, superintendent of Antietam National Battlefield, the center will be open seven days a week from April to November.



# THE FREDERICK COUNTY CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

*22 Years of Preserving Civil War History*

Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday evening  
of the month (September-May)

Meetings begin at 7:30 PM

National Museum of Civil War Medicine

48 East Patrick Street, (Downtown) Frederick, MD

## Program Topics and Speakers for 2010-2011

### 2010

**Sept. 16, 2010**

**Speaker:** Steve Stotemyer

**Topic:** The Real Barbara Fritchie

**Oct. 21, 2010**

**Speaker:** George Deutsch

**Topic:** Abraham Lincoln and Roger  
Taney: The Great Antagonists

**Nov. 18, 2010**

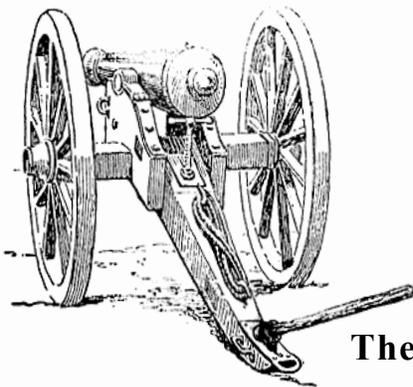
**Speaker:** Tom Clemmons

**Topic:** How Antietam Battlefield was  
Created

**Dec. 16, 2010 *Christmas Party***

**Speaker:** Cobey England

**Topic:** Music of the Civil War played  
on the hammered dulcimer



### 2011

**Jan. 20, 2011**

**Speaker:** Gail Stephens

**Topic:** *The Shadow of Shiloh: Major  
General Lew Wallace and the  
Civil War*

**Feb. 17, 2011**

**Speaker:** Walter Powell

**Topic:** The Wills House at Gettysburg

**March 17, 2011**

**Speaker:** Gary Miller

**Topic:** Insects and their Effect on the  
Civil War

**April 21, 2011**

**Speaker:** To be announced

**Topic:** Civil War Prison Camp at Point Lookout

**May 19, 2011**

**Speaker:** Dr. Craig Symonds, Professor  
Emeritus, U.S. Naval Academy

**Topic:** Civil War Naval Engagements

*For more information check our website:*

[frederickcountycivilwar.org](http://frederickcountycivilwar.org)

**The Frederick County Civil War Round Table**

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

*Please print this page for future reference*