

Banner

of the **Blue and Gray**

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



<http://frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org>

217th Meeting

December 2012

Vol. 39 Issue 4

The Gifts We Gave Ourselves

 **T**his is the season of giving, and in this second year of the Sesquicentennial, FCCWRT members can look back with pride at the gifts we've given ourselves — the gifts of preserving history for us, for our community and, most importantly, for generations to come.

Last February, the FCCWRT was awarded a \$1,300 grant to fund the installation of a Civil War Trails Marker at the approximate location of the Battle of Frederick on July 7 and 8, 1864. The battle, though small, was critical in the sequence of events that led to the Battle of Monocacy, known as the battle that saved Washington. The marker will be erected on US 40 near the Red Horse Restaurant. FCCWRT members raised matching funds to bring the project to fruition.



FCCWRT Treasurer Bob Kozak speaks to visitors at the Gardner photo exhibit, *Bringing the Story of War to Our Doorsteps*.

Expanding our outreach to the Frederick community, the Roundtable held a special, extra meeting in March at the Maryland School for the Deaf featuring deaf Civil War re-enactor Lindsay Darnell, who presented his program in sign language interpreted by a translator. Through the spring and summer months, members worked with Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area to develop an extremely successful Junior Civil War Historian program and activity book designed to encourage children and their families to explore the sites and stories of the Maryland Campaign of 1862.

In October, we gave ourselves an extraordinary gift. The FCCWRT, working in partnership with

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December Meeting

Thursday, December 20, 2012

7:30 PM

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

**Speaker: Rae Emerson,
Superintendent, Monocacy National Battlefield**

**Topic: Monocacy National Battlefield:
Past, Present, and Future**

Our Speaker

This month, we have a special program devoted to our own Monocacy National Battlefield Park. Rae Emerson, acting superintendent, will recount the park's history, discuss current preservation efforts, and explore the future of this "little crown jewel" in the National Park Service.

On July 9, 1864, Gen. Jubal Early and his Confederates encountered Maj. Gen. Lew Wallace and a ragtag group of Union soldiers guarding the Monocacy Junction B&O train station south of Frederick, near the Monocacy River. Early's objective was to seize the nation's capital, but Wallace's troops, spread strategically across the hills and meadows, stood in his way. A brief battle ensued, the Union was



defeated and Early continued toward Washington the next day. But the one-day delay made all the difference. Early's troops, already weary from the Shenandoah Valley Campaign, were exhausted at battle's end, and the delay gave Grant precious time to reinforce Washington. Early retreated to Virginia, the nation's Capital escaped destruction, and the little Battle of Monocacy became known as "the battle that saved Washington."

Although the battle gained recognition for its role in helping to end the war, 70 years passed before Congress authorized the park in 1934, and another 42 years before funds were authorized for land acquisition in 1976. During the next three decades, the six properties that comprise the park were purchased, and a new Visitor Center opened in June 2007. Today, the 1,647-acre park is an active, thriving historic site with a future as interesting as its past.



A former teacher and 22-year veteran of the National Park Service (NPS), Rae Emerson wears many hats. Her supervisory responsibilities include staff mentoring, project management, partnership development, park planning, preservation, natural and cultural resources, business management, safety, maintenance, resource protection and visitor education. Ms Emerson is an instructor/facilitator for the newly implemented NPS interagency Supervisory Skills Workshop. Among many previous assignments, Ms. Emerson has served as supervisory park ranger at the Boston African American National Historic Site, and as deputy Superintendent at Ford's Theatre National Historic Site in Washington, DC.

Ms. Emerson earned her undergraduate degree at the University of New Hampshire and has completed graduate work at Cambridge and Harvard universities. She also is a graduate of the Department of Interior's Executive Leadership Training Program.

Next Month's Speaker

At our next meeting, Jan. 17, at 7:30 pm, Susan Rosenvold, Superintendent of Clara Barton's Missing Soldiers Office in Washington, DC, part of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, will discuss "Clara Barton Finds Her Role: The Missing Soldiers Office."

The Prez Sez



What American Civil War charity do you support? There are so many, some so diverse, but what about supporting one of our local charities that is doing such a great job? I'm thinking of Save Historic Antietam (SHAF). At last month's meeting we heard from Tom Clemens, president of SHAF, reflecting on "Antietam in Their Own Words" a series of letters and accounts from soldiers who were actually present at Antietam on those frightful days in 1862.

SHAF's address is P.O Box 550, Sharpsburg, MD 21782. Tom could use your financial support for this preservation effort.

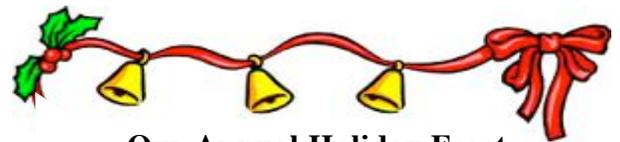
Jack

Back by popular demand

Gardner photo exhibit to run through February

Bringing the Story of War to Our Doorsteps, the re-creation of Alexander Gardner's powerful exhibit of photos first displayed in 1862 at the Brady Gallery in New York City will now be on display at The National Museum of Civil War Medicine.

The exhibit, which drew viewers from near and far, will now move from the Pry House on the Antietam National Battlefield, where it opened in October, to the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in downtown Frederick. The exhibit will run daily from Dec. 14 through Feb. 28.



Our Annual Holiday Feast

We will have our traditional holiday buffet as part of the December meeting. The Roundtable will provide drinks (iced tea, lemonade, water) and the plates, cups, and tableware. Members are asked to bring a "snack dish" or a dessert to share with others. The buffet will follow our program, and we will not hold a raffle that evening.

Correction

On Page 3 of the November *Banner*, Joanne Ivancic's name was misspelled in the photo credit. Also, the photo of journalist Henry Allen was taken by professional photographer Mark Babushkin.

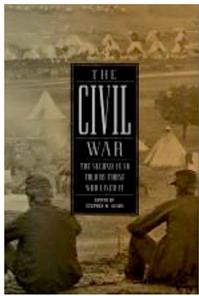
The Bookshelf

The Sesquicentennial has generated a bounty of superb books about the Civil War. Here are a few gift ideas for under the tree.

Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln, by Doris Kearns Goodwin. 944 pp., paperback, Simon & Schuster, 2006. If you loved Steven Spielberg's acclaimed film, "Lincoln," or plan to see it, this is the basis of the film. The prize-winning author has penned a stunning multiple biography, 10 years in the making, that reveals Lincoln's masterful political style that enabled him to succeed where others may have failed. This book makes an invaluable contribution to our ongoing fascination with all things Lincoln.

Lincoln: A President for the Ages, edited by Karl Weber, 288 pp., Public Affairs Books, 2012. A companion to Spielberg's "Lincoln" film, this book is much more than a movie tie-in. Enhanced with famous photos and Lincoln's writings, this is a collection of enlightening essays by notable Lincoln scholars, including Harold Holzer, that serves as an excellent introduction to Lincoln the politician. Some essayists speculate on what Lincoln would do if faced with the issues of today; other writers analyze how Lincoln expanded the role of the presidency and dealt with problems similar to those facing our presidents of the 20th and 21st centuries.

The Civil War: The Second Year Told by Those Who Lived it, edited by Stephen W. Sears, 936 pp., Library of



America 2012. This is the second in a four-volume series coming from the well-respected Library of America. This book, like the first volume, examines and documents the war through primary sources covering every aspect of the conflict — newspapers, military reports, memoirs, diaries, and more. The editor, also a well-known author, includes a detailed chronology and insightful annotations and endnotes. For the collector on your gift list, this series provides a solid foundation for building a Civil War library.

Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War, by Tony Horwitz, 432 pp., paperback, Vintage, 1999. Award-winning war correspondent Tony Horwitz came home to Virginia from Bosnia to discover that the American Civil War wasn't over yet. It was still being fought in the hearts and minds of "hard-core" reenactors. This book is the product of the author's two years of research, enhanced by his natural gift for storytelling. An entertaining book that illuminates America's ongoing dialogue about the Civil War.

From Ric Burns' list of best Civil War books. . .

Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era, by James M. McPherson, 952 pp., paperback edition with new afterword by the author, Oxford University Press, USA, 2003. To put it simply, this Pulitzer Prize-winning volume is the definitive book on the Civil War. If you give only one Civil War book this Christmas, this is the one to give.



Mary Chestnut's War, by Mary Chestnut, edited by C. Van Woodward, 892 pp., paperback, annotated, Yale University Press, 1993. Another Pulitzer Prize-winning "must-have" for any Civil War buff, this book is a moving portrait of the South's hopes and ultimate despair, 1861-1865.

The Legacy of The Civil War, by Robert Penn Warren, paperback, 109 pp. Bison Books, 1998. The brilliant author, poet and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner sets forth his views on how the Civil War shaped America today.

For young readers. . .

Behind the Blue and Gray: The Soldier's Life in the Civil War, by Delia Ray, 112 pp., ages 8 and up, Puffin, 1996. This excellent tale takes the reader through the trials and tribulations of a soldier's life, weaving in primary source materials. Highly recommended by teachers, with the caveat that it's more appropriate at the high school level.

The Civil War for Kids: A History with 21 Activities by Janis Herbert, 160 pp., ages 9 and up, Chicago Review Press, 1999. A combination of history and creative, hands-on fun, this is a great kid-friendly tool for learning about the Civil War and developing a lifelong love of history.

Calendar of Events

Dec. 7-9, 150th Anniversary, Fredericksburg, VA

Battle of Fredericksburg anniversary at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park. Walking & bus tours, Virginia Civil War Historymobile, battle reenactment, wreath-laying. Free except for Friday bus tour, \$20. Information: www.fredericksburg150.org.

Dec. 8, Museums by Candlelight, 10-9, Frederick, MD

Annual "Museums by Candlelight" event for the entire family, National Museum of Civil War Medicine. Free. Santa Claus and music. Further information: 301-695-1864, Ext. 14, www.frederickcountycivilwarrt.org.

Daily Dec. 14-Feb. 28, Alexander Gardner Photo Exhibit, Frederick, MD

An extended run for this acclaimed re-creation of the controversial 1862 Brady Gallery exhibit of Alexander Gardner's photos of the dead but not yet buried soldiers at Antietam. The "Bringing the Story of War to Our Doorsteps" exhibit, previously at the Pry House Museum, will be on display daily at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Mon-Sat. 10-5; Sun. 11-5. For information: www.frederickcountycivilwarrt.org, or www.WarOnOurDoorSteps.net.

Dec. 15, Civil War Santa, 12-4, Clinton, MD

The "Legend of Civil War Santa" program with Kevin Rawlings & tour of historic house, Surratt House Museum. Admission . Information: 301-868-1121, www.surratt.org.

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Gifts of Lasting Value (Continued from Page 1)

the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Hood College and the Center for Civil War Photography, mounted a remarkable exhibit re-creating Alexander Gardner's controversial exhibit of photographs of dead soldiers at Antietam. The original exhibit was held in October 1862 at the Matthew Brady Gallery in New York City. The exhibit, directed by FCCWRT Treasurer Bob Kozak, opened in October at the Pry House Museum and was so successful that it is re-opening at the National Museum for Civil War Medicine from Dec.14 through Feb. 28. This exhibit's impact will resonate for years to come.



Another gift of lasting significance is our ongoing effort to help preserve Civil War battlefields, an effort continually supported by the FCCWRT.

A quick check of the Civil War Trust website reveals that, to date, 34,039 acres of endangered battleground in 20 states have been saved, from as far west as New Mexico to right in our own backyard. In August came the announcement that thanks to matching funds from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Civil War Trust will acquire 150 acres: five key tracts near South Mountain Battlefield and two near Monocacy National Battlefield.

As we near the mid-point in the Sesquicentennial, we can savor all these enriching gifts of 2012. It was a very good year.

Calendar (Continued from Page 3)

Dec. 30-Jan.2, Emancipation Proclamation, National Archives, Washington, DC

National Archives commemoration of 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Free special display of the document in the East Rotunda Gallery. Sunday & Tuesday, 10-5; Monday 10am-Midnight. For additional information: 202-357-5000, www.archives.gov.

Longterm, Maryland During the War, Baltimore, MD

"Divided Voices: Maryland in the Civil War Sesquicentennial exhibit at Maryland Historical Society. Artifacts & programs change annually. Time tunnel, performances and music. For information: 410-685-3750, www.mdhs.org.

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.

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At last month's meeting . . .



At our November meeting, an enthusiastic audience of more than 45 members and guests was treated to an insightful and poignant lecture by Civil War author, historian, and history professor Dr. Tom Clemens. Tom shared personal accounts from the letters of Antietam veterans collected by the Antietam Battlefield Board, as well as from the papers of John Mead Gould.