

Banner

of the **Blue and Gray**

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

<http://frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org>



209th Meeting

January 2012

Vol. 38 Issue 5



DOG JACK

More than 150 years ago, a stray dog ambled into a Fire House in downtown Pittsburgh, PA, no doubt following his nose to the lunch pails of the men of the Niagara Volunteer Fire Co. He quickly became the unit's official mascot and settled into his new home. They called him Jack.

When the firefighters enlisted in the 102nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment in August 1861, Jack went with his Company. A large, muscular, mixed-breed dog that looked to be mostly bull terrier, Jack was intelligent and loyal, well-suited to serve his regiment and eager to prove himself a worthy soldier.

The 102nd fought admirably throughout the war, taking part in many major battles, with Jack always at their side, charging forward on the front lines. They were at Antietam, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, and in the trenches at Petersburg.

The 102nd taught Jack their bugle calls — and legend has it he would respond only to the orders of his own regiment. As the smoke settled after each battle, Jack would faithfully comb the bloody fields to search for the wounded or dead of his regiment, something he was neither trained for nor asked to do.

Jack was seriously wounded twice and twice captured by the Confederates. The first time he managed to escape, but the second time he was

(Continued on page 4, see **Dog Jack**)

January Meeting

Happy New Year!

Thursday, January 19, 2012

7:30 PM

at the

National Museum

of Civil War Medicine

48 East Patrick Street

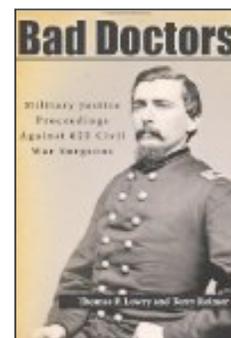
Frederick, Maryland 21701

**Speaker: Terry Reimer, Director of Research,
National Civil War Medical Museum**

**Subject: *Bad Doctors: Military Justice Proceedings
Against 622 Civil War Surgeons***

Our Speaker

Terry Reimer, Director of Research for the National Museum of Civil War Medicine (NMCWM), will kick off the New Year with a program about Civil War surgeons — the good, the bad and the ugly — based on her recent book, *Bad Doctors: Military Justice Proceedings Against 622 Civil War Surgeons*, co-authored with Thomas P. Lowry. Of the more than 12,000 surgeons who served in the war, most acted responsibly and discharged their medical duties with care. Most surgeons, but not all. A small number, 622, abused their positions so badly that they were tried in military court. Ms. Reimer's book is a comprehensive study of those surgeons who exhibited outrageous behavior ranging from drunkenness and promiscuity to arrogance, rape, theft, insolence, even insanity. Ms. Reimer relied on original documents, focusing



on the courts-martial records of both Union and Confederate forces. Union medical records were more complete, but Confederate records were adequate to provide a basis for comparison. Ms. Reimer and her co-author also thoroughly researched War Department records and records of the Surgeon General, all during the Civil War, as well as the annals of the *United States Service Magazine* from 1861 through 1865.

The result is a revealing, sometimes shocking, sometimes amusing portrait of surgeons behaving badly. The stress of a proportionately small group of



of surgeons trying to care for such a great number of battlefield wounded took its toll, and the authors found that the rate of surgeons who deserted the camps was nearly the same as that of ordinary soldiers.

In the final analysis, the authors conclude that the reputation of all Civil War surgeons as “drunken sawbones” to be feared is not totally deserved and that, despite the miscreants, by and large the surgeons exhibited the same flawed human behavior as other soldiers under the extreme duress of war.

Ms. Reimer is the author of two other books on Civil War medicine: *One Vast Hospital: The Civil War Hospital Sites in Frederick, Maryland after Antietam*, and *Divided by Conflict, United by Compassion: The National Museum of Civil War Medicine*.

Prior to her current position with the NMCWM, Ms. Reimer’s work includes more than 20 years of experience in historical archaeology and research, specializing in 17th, 18th and 19th century American sites. She holds a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Maryland and did graduate work in anthropology and folklore studies at George Washington University. She has lived in Frederick for more than 20 years.

Following the lecture, Ms. Reimer will be available to sign copies of her book.

Next Month’s Speaker

At our next meeting, Feb. 16, 2012, at 7:30 pm, John Reid, Park Ranger and Historian at Manassas National Battlefield Park will discuss how the two battles of Manassas, July 1861 and August 1862, influenced the War.

The Prez Sez



Members, hope yours was a Merry Christmas! Our Christmas Party was just that — merry (thanks again, George). A good time was had by all! And thanks to the Ladies of the Roundtable, our refreshment

table was once again laden with a delicious selection of treats. My thanks to all.

Here's an interesting January fact: One of the last of 30,000 Confederate Prisoners of War released from Fort Delaware (on Pea Patch Island near the small town of Delaware City, DE) was Burton Harrison, Yale College graduate of 1859, who was Confederate President Jefferson Davis' personal secretary. He was released in January of 1866.

The history of Fort Delaware as a Confederate Prison is an interesting one. Dottie and I have made a trip to the Fort, which included a ferry ride out to the island. It is an amazing structure. We also had a representative from the Fort speak to our Roundtable some years ago. If you missed that lecture, and you'd like us to bring him back, contact anyone on the Board and we'll see what we can do.

All good fortune to you and yours in this New Year of 2012.

Donnie

Christmas Party 2011 . . .



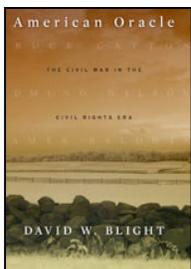
Great entertainment, a buffet of delectable holiday treats, and a successful silent auction combined for a fun evening.



The Bookshelf

American Oracle: The Civil War in the Civil Rights Era, by David W. Blight. Hardcover, illustrations, photos, notes, appendix, bibliography. 328 pp., 2011, Belknap Press of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

In 1960, the South was still segregated, “racial equality” was little more than a phrase in sociology class — and the country was about to commemorate the Centennial of the Civil War. David W. Blight, renowned



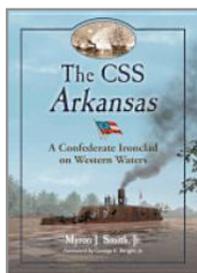
author and history professor at Yale, looks back 50 years to study how America was making sense of the War Between the States during a time of the greatest civil turmoil since that War. In this superb study, Blight highlights four dominant voices of the 1960s — author and historian Bruce Catton, novelist Robert Penn Warren, literary critic Edmund Wilson, African-American writer and activist James Baldwin — and explores their individual perspectives on why the War was fought and its everlasting yet ever-shifting impact.

The author goes to the heart of the matter— the War was about ending slavery — and examines how that central, underlying issue was side-stepped time and again in favor of a more sentimental theme of reunification. In his own words, Blight describes his book as “a discussion of four Americans in search of their country’s history.” That is a discussion, and a book, well worth having.

The CSS Arkansas: A Confederate Ironclad on Western Waters, by Myron J. Smith Jr. Soft cover, illustrated, photos, notes, maps, bibliography, index. 360 pp., 2011, McFarland, Jefferson, NC.

Myron J. Smith Jr., library director and professor at Tusculum College in Tennessee, and author of numerous books on Civil War naval history, has written an outstanding account of the short but significant career of the *CSS Arkansas*. En route to Vicksburg in the summer of 1862, the *Arkansas* encountered the Union fleet, including the ironclad *Carondelet*, in a running battle. The *Arkansas* earned her place in history as she withstood heavy fire and inflicted more damage than she received. She successfully passed through the Union fleet, exchanging fire at close range, and arrived in Vicksburg to cheering crowds. Three weeks later, the 28-day career of the *Arkansas* ended in a blaze when, due to engine trouble, the ship was abandoned and set on fire near Baton Rouge.

This well-researched and fascinating account of the *Arkansas* is a “must-have” for anyone interested in the history of ironclads and the Mississippi River campaigns.



Calendar of Events

To May 2015, Sesquicentennial Train Exhibit, Baltimore, MD

“The War Came by Train” exhibit that will change annually, B&O Railroad Museum. National Landmark Roundhouse exhibit of world’s largest group of Civil War railroad equipment. Narrated train ride to original site of Union’s Camp Carroll. Information: 410-752-2490, www.borail.org.

Jan. 14, Lee-Jackson Ceremony, 11 AM, Baltimore, MD

Annual ceremony at the Lee/Jackson double-equestrian monument honoring anniversary of generals’ births. Reenactors, civilians, heritage groups, spectators invited. For information, Elliott Cummings 410-296-9235, basilduke@comcast.net.

Jan 14, 15, 150th Coach Tour, Berkeley Springs, WV

150th Anniversary Bath-Romney Campaign motor coach tour of battle sites over two days. \$30/single day; \$55/2 days. Sponsored by Bath-Romney Campaign Historical & Preservation Association. Information: 304-258-2224, www.bathromneycampaign.webs.com.

Jan. 19, Lecture on Lee, 7 pm, Manassas, VA

David Palmer 1st-person program, “General Lee Takes Command” lecture, Old Manassas Courthouse. Free. Sponsored by Prince William County Historic Preservation. For information: 703-792-4754.

Jan. 25, Lecture & Visual Tour, 7:30 pm, Alexandria, VA

“A Visual Tour of Civil War Alexandria” at the Lyceum. Wally Owen program with 3-D and rare period images. \$10. Reservations recommended. Information: The Lyceum, 703-746-4994, www.alexandriahistory.org.

Jan. 26, Civil War Class, 6:30-9:45 pm, Westminster, MD

“The Battle of Second Manassas,” Carroll Community College, David Booz, instructor. \$35. Information: 410-386-8100, www.carrollcc.edu/instantenrollment

Jan. 26, Lecture on Gen. Ewell, 7 pm, Manassas, VA

Don Pfanz lecture on “Prince William County’s Civil War General – Life of Gen. Richard S. Ewell,” Old Manassas Courthouse. For information: 703-792-4754.

Jan. 31 & Feb. 7, Civil War Class, 6:30-9:45 pm, Westminster, MD

“McClellan’s Peninsula Campaign of 1862,” Carroll Community College, Phillip Muskett, instructor. \$52 fee; \$30 fee for seniors. For information: 410-386-8100, www.carrollcc.edu/instantenrollment.

Feb. 9, Civil War Lecture, 7 pm, Manassas, VA

“Longstreet’s Attack and the Struggle for Chinn Ridge,” lecture by Don Pfanz, Old Manassas Courthouse. Free. For information: 703-792-4754.

Ramblings from the Raffle Table



Friends, LUCKY YOU! Along with our ever-fun 50-Cent Raffle this month, we are able to again offer a Special Raffle of THREE of our FCCWRT caps (value \$15 each). There will be three drawings, as before, so there will be three winners. Tickets will be \$3 each. This Special Raffle will be offered in January and February, with the drawing occurring in February. This is the last of our supply, so—collector's items!

The winner of the Special Raffle knives at our Christmas Party was Jeff Bradshaw. Our Prez donated those knives, and he Sez "Congratulations, Jeff. "

High bidders for our December Silent Auctions were Gail Stephens, Jeff Bradshaw, Scott Fullerton, Don Goodwin, and Jim Enright. Congratulations to all of you, and thank you for bidding. There will be more Silent Auction items displayed at this month's meeting, so try your hand at bidding again! Come and look over this month's selection.

Again, Members and Friends, thank you all for participating in our fundraisers!

Dottie

Dog Jack (Continued from page 1)

held captive for six months. Jack was so valued that he was exchanged for a prisoner at Belle Isle and returned to his regiment and battle duty. In appreciation of his valor, his fellow-soldiers gave him a silver collar.



On the night of Dec. 23, 1864, while on furlough with his regiment at Frederick, MD, Jack vanished. The entire regiment searched tirelessly for him, offering a sizable reward for his safe return, but Jack was never seen again. Given the dog's devotion to his regiment, most likely he did not run away but was stolen for his collar, a surprisingly pricey item worth \$75 at the time.

No trace of Jack or his silver collar has ever been found in Frederick.

To honor Jack's courage and loyalty, the men of the 102nd commissioned an oil painting that hangs today in the Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Museum in Pittsburgh.

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.

2011-2012 Board of Directors

Donnie Toms , President	301-668-8660
ddtoms@comcast.net	
Phillip Dean , Vice President	301-865-8202
pd10X@comcast.net	
Jim Enright , Secretary	Cell: 301-514-3741
jpenright@potomacadvisors.com	
Bob Kozak , Treasurer	301-644-1396
KZAKR@aol.com	
Jack Sheriff , Archivist	301-371-4148
jbsheriff1@comcast.net	
Jack Brennan , Webmaster	301-829-4415
jackAC3@comcast.net	
Dottie Toms , Director	301-668-8660
ddtoms@comcast.net	
Jeff Arey , Director	301-874-2609
jeff.arey@comcast.net	

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

FCCWRT

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

www.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org

WE WANT YOUR IDEAS!

Members, the Board will soon be planning the Speaker Schedule for our 2012-2013 Season — spanning the second and third years of the Sesquicentennial.

If you have ideas for topics and/or speakers, or feedback in general, please email Board Secretary Jim Enright at: jpenright@potomacadvisors.com.

Your input is very important to us and greatly appreciated. Let us hear from you!