

Banner

of the **Blue and Gray**

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

<http://frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org>



225th Meeting

September 2013

Vol. 40 Issue 1



September Meeting

Thursday, Sept XX,
at 7:30 PM,
National Museum of
Civil War Medicine,
48 E. Patrick St.,
Frederick, MD



Our September Speaker, Hilda Koontz, Author and Consultant

The September 19 program will be *The Sultana Disaster: Freedom's Dream Gone Awry*. This program explores the loss of the steamer *Sultana* on the Mississippi River on April 27, 1865 – America's most costly maritime disaster. Attendees will hear about the hapless souls, primarily returning Union POWs, who traveled on the *Sultana* that fateful night, their enduring heroic acts, and the many instances of greed and incompetence that contributed to the disaster. There was plenty of guilt to go around!

Our presenter, Hilda Koontz, is a writer, a career and organizational development consultant and a former journalist. She is Past President and a current Board Member of the Gettysburg Civil War Roundtable and is also Vice President of the Civilians of Gettysburg reenactment group. She is a presenter for the annual "Maryland and the Civil War: A Regional Perspective" conference in Westminster MD, the Carroll County Historical Association, the Carroll County Genealogical Society, the Civil War Roundtables of Chicago IL, Chambersburg PA, Gettysburg PA and Pipe Creek in Westminster MD, as well as the Road Scholar (formerly Elderhostel) program of the YWCA of Adams County PA.

Hilda received her Master's degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul MN and her Bachelor of Arts degree in French and Political Science from Hood College in Frederick Md. She currently resides in Fairfield PA.

Membership Drive

by Kathy Fullerton, Membership Chair



Members and Friends: In order to support the speaker series listed on page 4, as well as other outreach activities, it's also time to solicit your membership dues. You can pay at the meeting, or send in the form attached to the newsletter. Dues remain the same as last year. \$30 for individuals and \$50 for family. Members will also receive our newsletter, have opportunities to participate in raffles for fun civil war themed prizes, and more! So sign up early and don't be left out.



The Prez Sez

Changes at the B.O.D.

Two members of our Board of Directors will be leaving us, VP Phil Dean, sometime in September and Web Master Jack Brennan, immediately. Phil Dean joined the Roundtable circa 2000 and served in many roles including your President for 6 terms.

His involvement with Monocacy Battlefield, Frederick Tourism and Rose Hill, just to name a few, has been invaluable to the Roundtable for many years. Phil will be moving to the Roanoke, Va. area early this fall. Look for him to be active in the Roundtable in that area. Let's all wish him a warm goodbye at the next meeting.

Jack Brennan has been serving as our Webmaster for several years and has done a splendid job handling the hi-tech part of keeping the site up to date. Jack will remain as a member and knowing him he will be more than willing to help out when needed.

Further changes find Kathy Fullerton moving up to Vice Presidential slot as well as handling the membership chores.

Matt Borders will become the new Webmaster as well as keeping his secretarial/archivist duties.

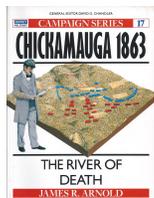
My final thoughts this month are that you the members step forward for the many volunteer spots we have to keep the Roundtable, active and involved with the Civil War activities in our area.

Feel free to contact myself or any of your Board members for further details

Jack

Ramblings from the Raffle Table

“Can’t have enough of a good thing” I always say about Chocolate and the Civil War. What a summer this has been: a great show at Gettysburg and almost every weekend you could find a commemoration encampment of Civil War Reenactors somewhere in the area! But our area was really a very small geographic portion of the great conflict. So my feature selections this month are aimed to broaden our vision beyond Gen’l Lee and his (dare I call them?) misadventures.



What could be more perfectly timed for our first meeting back than to win a book on the Battle of Chickamauga on the 150th anniversary of the battle? The Indian name meant “River of Death” and they were indeed omniscient. You will want to have this volume by James R. Arnold.

My interest in the Civil War initiated some great conversations at my high school reunion this summer. One classmate belongs to the Atlanta Roundtable (our members may not be as numerous but I think we lean in one direction as much as they do – with just enough Yankees to keep the seesaw interesting). Another classmate sent me a book that he thought I’d enjoy and he was correct. So I am passing it along with my personal recommendation.



Be sure to stop by the Raffle Table to see what else is being offered. We really appreciate your enthusiastic participation in supporting our local historic endeavors and the Civil War Trust!

Thank You, Kathi

Confederate Gen. Jubal A. Early drove from occupying Frederick on July 7. Union Gen. David Hunter into West Virginia after the Battle of Lynchburg, Va., clearing the Shenandoah Valley of Federal Forces. To draw Union troops from Petersburg, Early launched a raid on Washington, D.C., on June 23, 1864. Union Gen. Lew Wallace delayed the Confederates at Monocacy, giving Petersburg reinforcements time to stiffen the capital’s defenses. Early probed briefly on July 11 – 12 and then withdrew to the Shenandoah Valley, where he stopped his pursuers at Cool Spring on July 17 – 18. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant then detached forces under Gen. Philip H. Sheridan to crush Early.



This area was farm fields in 1864. Here, a makeshift force under Union Gen. Lew Wallace blocked Confederate cavalry

from occupying Frederick on July 7. Wallace had assembled the Federal force at Monocacy Junction, about three miles south, and then ordered the units here. The fight began at about 4 P.M. when the advance of Gen. Jubal A.

Early’s army under Frederick native Gen. Bradley T. Johnson approached. It raged until darkness fell four hours later. Col. Charles Gilpin, 3rd Maryland Potomac Home Brigade, commanded the Federal defense including the 8th Illinois Cavalry and 159th Ohio Mounted Infantry. The Baltimore Light Artillery under Baltimore native Lt. Peter Leary, Jr., supported Gilpin. On the Confederate side, Johnson’s force included the 1st and 2nd Maryland Cavalry and four Virginia cavalry regiments. After darkness ended the fighting, the Federals held their position until the next night and then

withdrew to Monocacy Junction when the rest of Early’s army approached. Wallace was pleased with his men’s performance here. “Think I have had the best little battle of the war,” he reported. “Our men did not retreat, but held their own. The enemy were repulsed three times.”

As the fight ensued, reinforcements and ammunition were rushed to Wallace from Baltimore. On July 9 at the Battle of Monocacy, Wallace’s force held for a day against Early’s much larger Confederate army. Union resistance here and at the Battle of Monocacy gave Federal authorities in Washington time to reinforce the city’s defenses against Early’s attack.



SPEAKER SERIES

- ✓ September 19 -- Hilda Koontz; "The Sultana Tragedy of 1865"
- ✓ October 17 -- Bill Hewitt, Gettysburg National Military Park; "Gettysburg: The Events Leading up to July 1, 1863"
- ✓ November 21 -- Frank O'Reilly, historian at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania, National Millitary Park, "The Battle of Fredericksburg"
- ✓ December 19 -- Gary Dyson, local author, "A Civil War Correspondent in New Orleans"
- ✓ January 16 -- Rick Slade, Superintendent of Monocacy National Battlefield, "Monocacy Battlefield; The Sesquicentennial and Beyond"
- ✓ February 20 -- Becky Oakes, our student speaker, a master's degree candidate at West Virginia University, "'To Think of the Subject Unmans Me:' An Exploration of Grief and Soldiering Through the Letters of Henry Livermore Abbott"
- ✓ March 20 -- Harold Holzer, leading Lincoln scholar, "Lincoln and the Press: The Uncivil War"
- ✓ April 17 -- Dr. Mark Bradley of the U.S. Army Center for History, "Battle of Bentonville, Johnston vs. Sherman"
- ✓ May 15 -- Mike Sipes will portray Lt.Gen.Jubal Early, the Confederate commander at the battle of Monocacy

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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