

Banner

of the **Blue and Gray**

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

<http://frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org>



204th Meeting

May 2011

Vol. 37 Issue 9

Saturday, July 23rd

*Come join the fun
at our 4th annual
PICNIC!*

Food ♦ Fun ♦ Music

Our 4th annual FCCWRT Summer Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 23, from 4-7 p.m. at the home of Judy and Jeff England, 5620 Detrick Road, Mt. Airy, off Route 144, just east of New Market.

In addition to our traditional feast of Watson's fried chicken and other delicious dishes brought by our members, there will be music by Cobey England on the hammered dulcimer, a tour of the Englands' historical house, and several displays of Civil War artifacts found in Frederick County and the surrounding area.

We are delighted to have this chance to invite Cobey back to entertain us. Cobey was scheduled to perform at our Christmas Party, which was canceled because of a snowstorm.

Cobey is an 18-year-old home-schooled student with a love for Scottish and Irish music. He has been studying and playing the hammered dulcimer for over eight years, and performs traditional and new age Celtic music. The hammered dulcimer is a stringed instrument that was extremely popular during the Civil War era.



Cobey lives with his parents, Judy and Jeff England, in their Mt. Airy home — the site of this year's picnic.

As part of our picnic activities, we will tour the Englands' historical home. The Englands purchased their farmstead home more than 30

(Continued on Page 4, See **PICNIC**)

May Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 2011

7:30 pm

at the

National Museum of Civil War Medicine

48 East Patrick Street

Frederick, Maryland 21701

Speaker: Dr. Craig Symonds

Subject: *Civil War Naval Engagements*

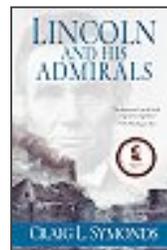
Our Speaker



Dr. Craig Symonds, Professor Emeritus of the U.S. Naval Academy and award-winning author or editor of 25 books, will discuss Abraham Lincoln and his relationship with the Union Navy and the Navy's leadership, especially its admirals, during the Civil War. Through his extensive writings, Dr. Symonds casts light on the often overlooked naval side of the Civil War.

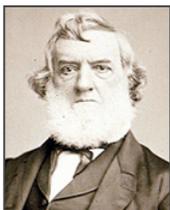
In his most recent book, *Lincoln and His Admirals: Abraham Lincoln, the U.S. Navy, and the Civil War*, winner of the prestigious Lincoln Prize, the Baroness Lincoln Prize, and the Abraham Lincoln Institute Book Award, among others, Dr. Symonds reveals how Lincoln dealt with the maritime area that admittedly he knew little about.

Lincoln was a master of self-education and in the months leading up to the outbreak of war in April 1861, he studied the history and strategies of naval warfare. Seven days after the Confederate capture of Fort Sumter, Lincoln ordered a blockade of Charleston and 11 other major Confederate ports, including the cotton or "white gold" ports of New Orleans and Mobile, AL. At the outset, Lincoln found himself with a Navy that was sorely unprepared for war, but moved quickly



to reinforce the fleet and numbers of officers and enlisted men.

Much of Lincoln's time and effort on the War at Sea was spent soothing his admirals' supersensitive egos and mediating disputes among Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, and Rear Admiral Samuel Du Pont.



Gideon Welles



Samuel Du Pont

DuPont disagreed with Lincoln and Welles about the effectiveness of the new, armored warships known as the Ironclads and was reluctant to employ them. That, along with DuPont's failed attack on Charleston and his constant complaining about lack of resources, led Lincoln to regard him with the same frustration he felt about General McClelland. In the end, Lincoln's foresight and political acumen paid off. The war-long blockade, enforced by the mighty Ironclads, effectively crippled the South's economy and ultimately became a powerful factor in winning the War.

Dr. Symonds' abiding interest in naval and Civil War history spans his 36-year teaching career. A California native and UCLA graduate, he was a U.S. Navy officer in the 1970s and became the first ensign ever to lecture at the prestigious Naval War College in Newport, R.I. After his naval service, he was a civilian Professor of Strategy at the War College from 1974 to 1975.

He joined the faculty of the Naval Academy in 1976, where his popular Civil War classes were always filled to overflowing. He became the first person to win both the Naval Academy's "Excellence in Teaching" award and its "Excellence in Research" award.

Dr. Symonds also served as History Department chair from 1988 to 1992, and received the Department of the Navy's Superior Civilian Service medal three times. From 1994 to 1995, he was Professor of Strategy at the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, England.

In addition to *Lincoln and His Admirals*, Dr. Symonds is the author of prize-winning biographies of Joseph E. Johnston (1992), Patrick Cleburne (1997), and Franklin Buchanan (1999), as well as *The Decision at Sea: Five Naval Battles that Shaped American History*, which won the Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt Prize for Naval History in 2006. Since retiring from the Naval

The Prez Sez



Members, we have come to the last meeting of our 2010-11 season. Over the summer, our Board will be working on the 2011-12 schedule of speakers. Again we invite you to request a subject or speaker that interests you, or something we have touched on that you would like to know more about. Contact any of our Board members with your ideas, and we will get to work on it!

As you know, our Roundtable has been donating to the Civil War Trust for many years now. Next season, we are venturing into a new project, one of more local interest. The FCCWRT Board hopes to place a Wayside Marker in Frederick commemorating the Battle of Frederick (July 7-8, 1864), in conjunction with local Sesquicentennial events. We will present specifics on the project at a later date for your approval.

Don't forget our Summer Picnic on Saturday, July 23rd. Longtime members, the England Family, are opening their home to us, and it sounds like a great time. See the article on Page 1 for details on the picnic. I'm looking forward to seeing you all there.

My wishes to you and your family for health, happiness and a safe summer.

Donnie

Election of Officers

We will hold our annual election of officers at our last meeting of the season on May 19. The following Board members are completing their second year of service and are up for re-election:

Jim Enright, Secretary
 Bob Kozak, Treasurer
 Jack Sheriff, Archivist
 Jack Brennan, Webmaster

The 2011-2012 season begins with our first meeting on Thurs., Sept. 15, at 7:30 pm. Check our website for updates on speakers and events for the coming season.

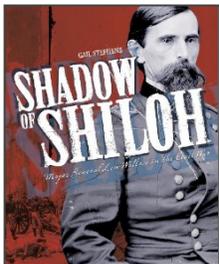
See you at the picnic!

Academy, Dr. Symonds has traveled extensively speaking on Civil War topics. He has spoken at Civil War Round Tables in 27 states and two foreign countries. He also has given battlefield tours and conducted leadership workshops based on the life of Abraham Lincoln.

His latest work, *The Battle of Midway*, will be published by Oxford University Press in October. He and his wife, Marylou, live in Annapolis, MD. They have one son and one grandson.

The Bookshelf

Shadow of Shiloh: Major General Lew Wallace in the Civil War, by Gail Stephens. Photographs, maps, index. Hardcover, 301 pp., 2010, Indiana Historical Society Press, Indianapolis, IN. www.indianahistory.org.



During her years of volunteering at the Monocacy National Battlefield in Frederick, MD, Gail Stephens became intrigued by the story of Major General Lew Wallace, whose one-day stand in 1864 at Monocacy against a Confederate army more than twice the size of his force, gave Grant time to reinforce the Nation's Capital.

Mrs. Stephens could not reconcile how Wallace, who had shown such brilliance in his military actions, could falter so severely at the Battle of Shiloh. She set out to answer that question and the result is a riveting book that recently won the William Henry Seward Award for Excellence in Civil War Biography.

Gail Stephens, a 26-year veteran of the Department of Defense, provides a beautifully written, well-researched and meticulously documented book that reveals Wallace as a man of both superior talents and damaging flaws. He romanticized war and took great pride in going into battle — pride that was easily hurt by any perceived slight.

A bright and eager young lawyer, Wallace quickly became the Union's youngest major general at age 35 and a rising star in the military, until Shiloh. On April 6, 1862, Wallace and his men, stationed six miles from the Shiloh battlefield, failed to arrive until the end of the first day of battle. The reasons why were unclear. When Grant had to account for the staggering number of casualties, Grant claimed Wallace failed to obey orders and made him the scapegoat. The rising star was tarnished; Wallace did not have a command for the next two years.

After the war, despite tremendous literary success with his novel, *Ben-Hur*, and posts as governor of the New Mexico territory and ambassador to the Turkish Empire, Wallace was so haunted by Shiloh that 29 years after the battle he returned to the scene, still hoping to vindicate his actions. In her own quest for answers, in 2005 the author, along with historians from Shiloh National Military Park, retraced Wallace's 1862 march to the battlefield. Mrs. Stephens successfully refutes the accusations against Wallace and ultimately concludes that both Grant and Wallace would have to share the burden of guilt.

Mrs. Stephens creates an unforgettable portrait of the complex man she describes as, "The man of many parts — lawyer, warrior, scholar, diplomat and author." Not until after his death in 1905, she writes, did Wallace finally receive "unadulterated praise for his singular life and contributions." This is a biography that deserves a place on every Civil War bookshelf.

(Gail Stephens discussed her book at our FCCWRT January meeting. For more information, see the January and February 2011 Banner newsletters, archived at our website, www.fccwrt.org.)

Calendar of Events (May through August)

May 13, Art Program, Gettysburg, PA, 6-7:30pm

"An Evening with the Painting," at Gettysburg National Military Park Museum & Visitor Center. Talk on history & conservation of Gettysburg Cyclorama painting. Tickets: 717-338-1243, www.gettysburgfoundation.org.

May 14, Lecture, Frederick, MD, 11am-Noon

"The Sanitary Commission and Their Fairs" lecture at National Museum of Civil War Medicine. For information, 301-695-1864, www.CivilWarMed.org.

June 2-5, 150th Reenactment, Philippi, WV

150th anniversary of Battle of Philippi — First Land Battle of the Civil War. Full battle, living history, night skirmish, artillery demonstrations, tea, church service, parade. For information: 304-457-4265, deb_schoon@hotmail.com.

June 3, Civil War Tea, Monocacy National Battlefield, Frederick, MD, 1pm

Tea Party at Gambrill Mansion on battlefield grounds. Rangers and volunteers will provide programs on 19th century life. Free. Reservations required, starting May 1. For information: www.nps.gov/mono/planyourvisit/events.htm

June 10-12, 150th Anniversary Programs, Fredericksburg Region, VA

"Into the Abyss: Virginia Goes to War." Special tours, programs and other events commemorating mobilization for war. For information: 540-654-5546.

June 11, Mosby Walking Tour, Warrenton, VA, 1pm

Col. John S. Mosby in Warrenton Walking Tour in Old Town, Warrenton. Led by Colonel Mosby and the Mosby Players. \$5, 25-person limit. For information: Paula Johnson, 540341-7019, pauladrdr@aol.com.

June 18, Brass Band Festival, Gettysburg, PA

Gettysburg Festival Brass Band Concert at Gettysburg National Military Park Museum & Visitor Center. Free evening concerts at Pennsylvania Memorial. For information: 717-334-1124, Ext. 3251.

June 25, Banjo Concert, Antietam National Battlefield, Keedysville, MD

Early American Banjo Concert at Pry House Field Hospital Museum. All proceeds benefit National Museum of Civil War Medicine. \$5, adults; \$3, under age 15. 301-695-1864, www.CivilWarMed.org.

July 9-10, Civil War Encampment, Frederick MD

7th Annual Rose Hill Manor Park Civil War Encampment, Sat. 10-4, Sun. 10-3. Battles 2 p.m. Living history, music, manor tours, children's activities. Special activities Sat. evening, 7-9, with separate \$3 admission. Daily admission \$3. 301-600-1650, www.rosehillmuseum.com.

(Continued on Page 4, See Calendar)

Ramblings from the Raffle Table

Friends, May's meeting will be a second and final chance to buy raffle tickets for the padded display box of Civil War artifacts, with the accompanying book, *William Henry Seward and the Secession Crisis, The Effort to Prevent Civil War*, by Lawrence M. Denton. Reminder, this Special Raffle is \$3.00, and the drawing will be held at May's meeting. Be sure to get in on this deal!

We have another fun selection of 3/\$1 Raffle items this month, most of which will be from Adrian Tudor's personal collection of VHS video copies. Adrian has generously donated them to our cause. There are quite a few, so we will be featuring them in many of our upcoming 3/\$1 Raffles. These videos represent a wide range of subjects. You have a good chance of winning some interesting summer reading and/or viewing.

To really sweeten our 3/\$1 pot, we are including a FREE one-year subscription to *The Civil War News*, graciously donated to our raffle by our friends at The Civil War News. What a deal! Don't miss out on this!

Dottie

[Calendar of Events](#), (continued from Page 3)

July 16-Sept. 4, Civil War Exhibit, Manassas, VA

First showing of Virginia Civil War Commission traveling exhibit, "Virginia's Civil War," going to 8 museums. Tues.-Sun., 10-5 at Manassas Museum. Opening reception, July 22, 7 pm. For information: 703-368-1873, www.visitmanassas.org.

July 14, 150th Battle Lecture, Frederick, MD, 7pm

"The Battle of First Manassas and its Aftermath," talk by John Reid, at National Museum of Civil War Medicine. For information: 301-695-1864, www.CivilWarMed.org.

July 18-19, Battle Living History, Charles Town, WV

148th Anniversary of Battle of Charles Town. Skirmishes both days, hourly history talks, authors area, living history, Sat. evening concert. Free. For information: American Living History Educational Society, 717-338-1776.

July 23-24, Battle Reenactment, Manassas, VA

150th commemoration of Battle of First Manassas/Bull Run. Thousands of reenactors, cavalry demonstrations, lectures, living history, \$20. For information: 703-396-7130, www.VisitPWC.com.

Aug. 10-Aug. 13, Battleground Tours, MD

"Director's Tour: South Mountain & Antietam," sponsored by the Blue & Gray Education Society. For Information: www.blueandgrayeducation.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.

2009-2010 Board of Directors

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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

Picnic (continued from Page 1)



years ago. The handsome brick dwelling was built in 1870 by Capt. Ignatius Waters Dorsey who served in the Army of Northern Virginia as Quartermaster, 1st Maryland Cavalry.

Captain Dorsey was present at the Battle of Yellow Tavern, May 11, 1864, just north of Richmond, VA, a battle best known for the fatal wounding of Confederate commander Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart. After the War, Captain Dorsey returned to Maryland, built his farmstead, and served as a board member of Maryland's House of Correction.

Save the date — Saturday, July 23. The picnic is sure to be fun for all. Don't miss it!