

Banner

of the **Blue and Gray**

Newsletter of the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable
Frederick, Maryland
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<http://frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org>



208th Meeting

December 2011

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Ramblings from the Raffle Table

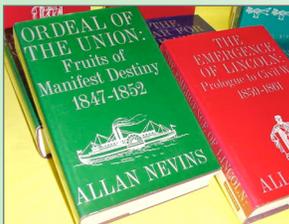
Friends, our Christmas Party approaches and we are looking forward to a great evening! Our Special Raffle this month features two NEW collector pocket knives in gift tins (think Christmas), one commemorating Appomattox, the other commemorating Chickamauga. The price of this Special Raffle ticket is \$3, and the drawing will be held at this meeting.

Our Raffle Table is heading toward the real world, having increased our 3/\$1 Raffle ticket price to 50 CENTS EACH. Our Raffle is STILL the best deal in town! As always, we will have a varied selection that you'll want to check out. Be sure to make your ticket purchases before the meeting!

Also, as was mentioned in November's Banner, we have added a Silent Auction to our fund-raising events for this month. We are auctioning off a set of eight hardcover books (in superior condition) by Allan Nevins on American History 1850 through the Reconstruction, along with several framed prints of Civil War important persons. Come and see these items before our meeting begins, and make your bids!

These Silent Auction books and framed prints are all from a large donation made recently to our Roundtable by member David Reid. More pieces from his collection will be popping up on our Raffle Table throughout the year. Thanks again, Dave.

Dottie



to our fund-raising events for this month. We are auctioning off a set of eight hardcover books (in superior condi-



December Meeting

Merry Christmas!

Thursday, December 15, 2011

7:30 PM

at the

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

Speaker/Entertainer: George Wunderlich

Subject: *Banjo Music from the Civil War Era*

Our Speaker

Making our annual Christmas party very merry this year, George Wunderlich, Executive Director of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine (NMCWM), will entertain us with a program of early banjo songs from the Civil War Era. George is a man of many talents and skills. When he is not directing activities at the NMCWM, he may be working on a TV special, developing new partnerships, planning innovative educational programs, or hard at work in his home woodshop handcrafting authentic early banjos.

It was his abiding interest in the banjo that led George to move his family from his native St. Louis to Maryland in 1996, where he could have easy access to early banjo collections and pursue recreating, restoring and conserving American banjos from the early 1800s through the end of the Civil War.



George quickly became a recognized authority in the area on Civil War topics and, within four years, he began his association with the NMCWM, first as Director of Education and then as Executive Director since 2002.

Prior to moving to Maryland, George founded the Historical Education Center in St. Louis and was awarded the National Medal of Honor by the Daughters of the American Revolution for his work in public history.

During George's tenure with the NMCWM, the museum has flourished and expanded to include a satellite site, an educational institute and a publishing arm, the NMCWM Press.



In 2005, George developed a first of its kind partnership with the National Park Service on the Antietam Battlefield that led to establishing the NMCWM's satellite site, the Pry House Field Hospital Museum, where the Union Army set up headquarters in September 1862 in preparation for what is known as the nation's bloodiest day, the Battle of Antietam. The Pry House, considered the birthplace of military and emergency medicine, is where Union Army Medical Dr. Jonathan Letterman began implementing what would become today's standard procedures of emergency care.

As a natural outgrowth of the museum's mission, in 2009 George led the team that developed the Letterman Institute, which uses the Civil War medical story to assist military, government, and civilian organizations in developing and applying leadership and logistical skills.

In addition, the NMCWM is currently in negotiations to become the government's preferred museum partner in the conservation and interpretation of the historic downtown Washington site of Clara Barton's Missing Soldiers Office, which was rediscovered in 1996.

Beyond his work in Frederick County, George has also been associated with the Federal Office of Personnel Management as a presenter for the White House Fellows Program and has developed new historically-based training programs for the National Park Service and the U.S. Army Medical Department, among others. He also serves on the Advisory Council of the National Civil War Museum.

George has worked with Grenada Productions, the History Channel, National Geographic and the BBC,

The Prez Sez



Members, we are fortunate to have had several generous souls rally to our Board's call for volunteers at the start of this season. They are: Kathy and Scott Fullerton (who are already on duty), Joanne Ivancic, Nancy Garrett and Matt Borders. Thank you one and all, and welcome aboard.

As you know, this month's meeting is also our yearly Christmas Party, which has always proven to be a lot of fun. You are welcome to bring friends to enjoy our entertainment. This year we have Mr. George Wunderlich himself playing his banjo. This is sure to be a treat!

I'm looking forward to seeing you all there (and your usual delicious additions to our refreshment table).

Healthy and Happy Holidays to you and yours.

Donnie

and has appeared on several programs dealing with ballistics, medicine, and historic musical instruments. He is a nationally known speaker on Civil War topics and can be seen regularly on the History Channel, A&E, the BBC, and PBS.



Despite his crowded calendar, George still finds time to build Civil War Era banjos and restore them for collectors. Even Hollywood has come calling, and George has made many authentic period instruments featured in numerous films, including *Gods and Generals*, *Gangs of New York*, and *Cold Mountain*.

Among many honors, in 2009 George received an award that may be one of his favorites: the Maryland Achievement in Living Traditions and Arts (ALTA) award for his "dedication to a traditional stringed instrument." The annual award honors individuals who "best epitomize Maryland's heritage."

George and his family live in Meyersville.

Next Month's Speaker

Author Terry Reimer, National Museum of Civil War Medicine Director of Research, will discuss her new book: *Bad Doctors: Military Justice Proceedings Against 622 Civil War Surgeons* at our next meeting, Jan. 19, 2012, at 7:30 pm.

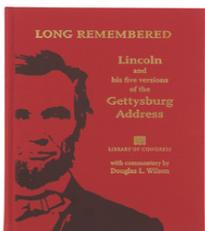
The Bookshelf

The Sesquicentennial has inspired a host of wonderful Civil War books of all shapes and sizes from coffee table books to guides and books for young readers. Here's a small sampling of great gifts for under the tree.

The Civil War 150 – An Essential To-Do List for the 150th Anniversary, edited by Garry E. Adelman. 2011, Lyons Press. This generously illustrated book, edited by the Civil War Trust Director of History and Education, presents 150 ways to explore the Sesquicentennial and experience the battlefields firsthand. Well worth the \$14.95 price, this guidebook, complete with maps, an index, checklist, and quick reference, will be useful long past the end of the Sesquicentennial.

Great Maps of the Civil War: Pivotal Battles and Campaigns Featuring 32 Removable Maps (Museum in a Book), by William J. Miller. Illustrated, 48 pp., 2004, Thomas Nelson. Destined to be a collector's item, this "Museum in a Book" features 15 chapters, each with two or three pull-out maps, 10 of which are 18x24. The crucial role that maps and mapmakers played in the conduct of war comes clear in this full-color, beautifully designed book. This remarkable piece of history is a must for any Civil War home library.

Long Remembered: Lincoln and His Five Versions of the Gettysburg Address. Hardcover, maps,



photographs, telegrams and letters about the war, 136 pp., 2011, the Library of Congress in association with Levenger Press. This elegant, updated edition bound in deep red linen has high-resolution, full-color, full-size images of all five handwritten versions with unbound facsimiles stored in a back pocket. It also features commentaries by Lincoln historian Douglas L. Wilson and retired Library of Congress curator John R. Sellers. This is a very special gift for anyone who appreciates history and fine books. Available exclusively from www.levenger.com.

Civil War Dogs and The Men Who Loved Them, by Anne Palagruto. Illustrated with 100+ images, paperback, 102 pp, 2008 CreateSpace. This small volume tells the stories of many dogs who served in the war in so many different capacities: as messengers or spies, in hospitals or prisons, and everywhere on the front lines. Beloved by their masters, including generals and Presidents Davis and Lincoln, these faithful companions were staunch soldiers, many of whom gave their lives for the cause. Also included is a chapter honoring the modern-day dogs of war who served in the Gulf War.



The New York Times Complete Civil War 1861-1865, edited by Harold Holzer and Craig Symonds, with a foreword by President Bill Clinton.

Illustrated, maps, historical photos and engravings, 512 pp, 2010, Black Dog & Leventhal. The editors, both distinguished historians, have included every pertinent article from the *Times* and enhanced the collection with insightful editorial commentary.

This well-designed coffee table book comes with a DVD featuring more than 100,000 *Times* stories, every article published about the war. The book and DVD package is a feast for any Civil War enthusiast.

For young readers . . .

Fields of Fury: The American Civil War, by James M. McPherson. The distinguished Pulitzer Prize winning author of *Battle Cry Freedom* works his magic here for young readers. Exceptionally well-conceived and appealing, this book is not only great reading but also a handy resource. Includes each major battle, quick facts, index, glossary, maps, photos, illustrations, and even eyewitness accounts from children. This is one book sure to engage the 10-year-old on your gift list. Ages 9 and up.

Avery's Battlefield, Book One, by Deanna K. Klinge. A captivating novel about a 14-year-old Quaker boy and his dog and their exciting adventures in and around the Washington, DC, area during the early years of the Civil War. This is fast-paced historical fiction that both young and old will enjoy. Ages 8 and up.

My Brother Abe: Sally Lincoln's Story, by Harry Mazer. Based on historical facts, the award-winning author spins a fascinating tale of Lincoln's older sister, the family's struggles, and Sally's influence on the young boy who would become president. Ages 8 to 12.

Silent Auctions to support CW Trails Marker

As a fund raising activity for the Civil War Trails Marker our Roundtable is sponsoring, there will be several Silent Auctions held at our next few monthly meetings.

Check Dottie's *Ramblings from the Raffle Table* column (Page 1) for information about the special collector's items in this month's auction. The items will be on display before and after the meeting, and you can bid by writing your name and the amount of your bid on the sheet provided for each item.

To bid on an item that already has a bid listed, sign your name and the amount of your higher bid. At the end of the evening, the highest bidder will win the item. Winners will collect their items and pay in cash or check (preferred) before leaving.

At last month's meeting . . .



Jeff Goodson enthralled our membership with his rich perspective on the critical role Maryland played — from Allan Pinkerton to Harriet Tubman — in the Union Army's intelligence gathering during the Civil War.

Calendar of Events

Dec. 10, Exhibits/Holiday Entertainment, Frederick MD, 10am – 8:30pm

Part of Frederick's Museums by Candlelight holiday event, National Museum of Civil War Medicine exhibit on Civil War Surgery and the Birth of Professional Nursing featuring living historians, 11am-8:30pm. Union Civil War Santa Claus, Noon-4pm & 6-8:30pm. Victorian Holiday Music. Locally made quilts for Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed Hospital on display; create a greeting card for a Wounded Warrior. 301-695-1864, www.civilwarmed.org.

Through Dec. 31, Civil War 150th Anniversary Exhibit, Baltimore, MD

"Divided Voices, Maryland in the Civil War" at Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore. Time tunnel, performances, music. For information: (410) 685-3750; www.mdhs.org.

Through Dec. 31, Railroad & Lincoln Exhibit, Baltimore, MD

"Riots, Railroads and the Coming of Mr. Lincoln" exhibit on Lincoln's trips through Baltimore & Gettysburg; Baltimore Riots & the role of Camden Station. Sports Legend Museum at Camden Station. For further information, 410-727-1539, <http://baberuthmuseum.com>.

Through Dec. 31, 1st Manassas Exhibit, Manassas, VA

Loaned objects related to the First Battle of Manassas, Manassas National Battlefield. Jackson belt plate, Mosby shotgun and more. For information: 703-754-1861.

Through Dec. 31, Living History, Gettysburg, PA

Holiday celebrations of the 1860s, new David Wills House museum, where Lincoln spent the night before giving the Gettysburg address. For information: 866-486-5735, www.davidwillshouse.org.

To March 18, Ellsworth Exhibit, Washington, DC

"The Death of Ellsworth," National Portrait Gallery alcove exhibit of objects and artwork related to the death of Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth, commander of the New York Fire Zouaves and the first Union officer to be killed in the Civil War, May 24, 1861, in Alexandria, VA. First of four annual alcove exhibits commemorating the 150th. For more information: 202-633-8300, npgnews@si.edu;

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

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

FCCWRT

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www.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org



Don't forget to stop by the National Museum of Civil War Medicine Gift Shop for unique gifts you won't find at the mall.

Banner of the Blue and Gray Editor: Nancy Enright