

# Banner

## of the **Blue and Gray**

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

<http://frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org>



206th Meeting

October 2011

Vol. 38 Issue 2

### 1861: The Impact of 1st Manassas



In 1861, the months following Fort Sumter saw a smattering of battlefield skirmishes and a handful of deaths. But it was not until July that the country had a true glimpse of what war would mean. On July 21,

2011, Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service, spoke at the 150th Anniversary of the First Battle of Manassas/Bull Run at Manassas National Battlefield Park. "This is where American democracy began its baptism of fire," he said, "where the grueling four-year journey that shaped a nation began in earnest."

The battle served another important purpose, the Director noted: It "dispelled the myth that the war would be a quick affair," a notion put forth by the Confederate secretary of war who said that when it was all over, he would be able to wipe up the spilled blood with a handkerchief.

Historian Shelby Foote liked to say it would be a good doctoral project to try and calculate just how many handkerchiefs it would have taken to wipe up the bloodshed. "Over 620,000 lives. That was the price exacted by the War," Jarvis said – and those were only the military deaths.

#### Upheaval and lasting change

To this day, the Civil War remains "Our greatest national upheaval," the Director continued. "It transformed our conceptions of race and freedom." In 1861 four million African Americans were slaves, he noted. Slavery was legal; it was the engine that drove the southern economy, and the South fought fiercely to preserve its way of life. "The Civil War decided, once and for all, the questions of slavery and of union or disunion," he said. "Before the war, people spoke of the country in the plural, saying 'the United States are.' After the war, it was singular: 'the United States is.'"

(Continued on Page 4, See 1861)

### October Meeting

Thursday, October 20, 2011

7:30 pm\*

at the

**Frederick Visitor Center**

**151 South East Street**

(Corner of East & South Streets,  
across from the Train Station)

**Frederick, Maryland 21701**

**Speaker: John A. Fieseler**

**Subject: *Civil War Trails***

*\* Come at 7pm to explore the interesting exhibits on display at the Center*

#### Our Speaker



We have a special program lined up for this month! We will meet at the new Frederick Visitor Center in downtown Frederick where John Fieseler, Executive Director of the Tourism Council of Frederick will present a short orientation film about the Visitor Center and speak on the topic of the Civil War Trails program, a landscape-based interpretation that strives to communicate historical stories of interest to the general public. There are more than 1,300 sites in the program.

John will present an overview of the extensive Civil War Trails program of driving tours that extends from Gettysburg south to North Carolina and west through Tennessee. His talk will focus primarily on the sites and stories interpreted in the Civil War Trails program in Frederick County, as well as in the surrounding area including the



Antietam Campaign: "Lee Invades Maryland" and "Gettysburg: Invasion and Retreat" trails, with an update on efforts to establish an 1864 trail.

The new Frederick Visitor Center that officially opened this past April 2 has historical roots of its own. The building dates to 1899 and originally was home to the Frederick Spoke Factory that served the carriage industry in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Part of the building's attraction was its location: The Tourism Council was looking for a site that would be



easily accessible by tour buses arriving via I-70, and train and tourist traffic. The Center is located

across East Street from the Frederick Train Station, within easy walking distance of the center of town, and offers parking behind the building and covered outdoor space for tour groups.

As Executive Director of the Tourism Council of Frederick since December 1997, John presided over the \$3.2 million renovation that was accomplished with an eye toward preserving much of the original character of the building while incorporating modern amenities including a 50-seat theater, flat-screen monitors and ample exhibit space.

Prior to his current post, John served on the Tourism Council's Board for six years, including two as president, while working at Frederick radio stations.

As Executive Director, John represents Frederick County in the Maryland Association of Destination Marketing Organizations. He is a past Chair of the organization and currently chairs the Research Committee. In 2009 he was appointed by Governor O'Malley to serve on the Maryland Tourism Development Board, and in 2010 he was appointed by the governor to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. He serves on the Board of Directors for the 5-state Civil War Trails organization, and was a founding Trustee of the four-state Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership. He also serves on the Board of the Downtown Frederick Partnership, on the Advisory Board of the Frederick-Washington-Carroll counties "Heart of the Civil War" Heritage Area and on the Catoctin Mountain National Scenic Byway Advisory Committee.

John has a Bachelor's degree in communications from Fordham University in New York. He and his wife Katie are restoring a 1790s log and stone farmhouse in Keymar, MD.

## [The Prez Sez](#)



Members, a newly published book has been recommended to us Civil War buffs: *George Crook, from the Redwoods to Appomattox* by historian and author Paul Magid (available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble).

The book chronicles the colorful and amazing life – from childhood to the end of the Civil War – of the eccentric and under-appreciated officer, U.S. Army Major General George Crook. General Crook was most noted as an Indian fighter (having taken on Geronimo and the Apaches), but he also played a rich and varied role in the Civil War that saw him fighting in battles from Tennessee to the Shenandoah, as well as leading an attack on the Burnside Bridge at Antietam, and fighting in the Battle of South Mountain. (Actually, even if you don't find Mr. Magid's book, the information on General Crook available on the internet is definitely worth the read!)

Also, don't forget, FCCWRT will hold October's meeting at the new Frederick Visitor Center, 151 S. East Street.

Bring a friend. Hope to see you all there, and remember to come a little early for this meeting.

**Donnie**

## **NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER**

Historian and Professor Jeff Goodson will discuss "Union Secret and Signal Services in Maryland During the Civil War" at our next meeting, Thursday, Nov. 17, 2011, at 7:30 pm.

## [At last month's meeting . . .](#)

**Another large, crowd enjoyed Jim Morgan's riveting lecture on the Battle of Ball's Bluff – a great way to kick off our 2011-2012 season.**



## **REMINDER TO MEMBERS**

If you have not paid your 2011-2012 FCCWRT membership dues, please bring a check to our October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Annual dues are \$30 for individuals; \$50 for families.

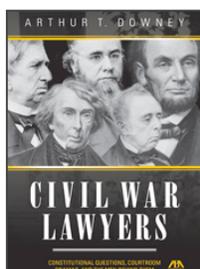
Feel free to bring a friend to our meetings! We welcome new memberships. Now is an exciting time to join us in commemorating the Sesquicentennial.

## The Bookshelf

***Haunted Gettysburg***, by Carol Starr & Mark Sarro. Photographs, 160 pp., 2009, Schiffer Books, Atglen, PA.

Just in time for Halloween we have a guide to the paranormal in Gettysburg, touted as one of the “most haunted” sites in America. Armed with Geiger counters and cameras, the authors provide excellent color photos and take readers on a vivid tour of key ghost haunts from battlefield sites, to the Jennie Wade House, the Orphanage, the Soldiers Museum where a negative spirit notoriously roams the hallways, and more. A fun book for the ghost-hunter in all of us.

***Civil War Lawyers: Constitutional Questions, Courtroom Dramas, and the Men Behind Them***, by Arthur T. Downey. Notes, appendices, period photos, 482 pp., 2010, American Bar Association Books, Chicago, IL.

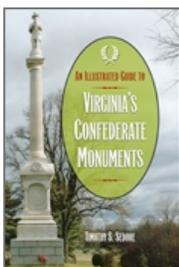


While the generals commanded the battlefields of the Civil War, the prominent American lawyers who dominated the politics of the era directed the legal conduct of the war. Lincoln and his key cabinet members and diplomatic appointees were all lawyers. The author, a retired Washington lawyer, does a masterful job of conveying the critical role these men played in deciding the crucial legal issues of the time, including *habeas corpus*, Dred Scott, secession, abolition, John Brown’s trial and issues of naval and international warfare.

Extremely well-researched and packed with information, the book is also a portrait of how artfully Lincoln used his legal skills during his presidency. The author does not shy away from controversial figures and portrays Chief Justice Taney, who wrote the Dred Scott decision, as a conscientious and courageous jurist.

At first glance, this book may seem geared only to the legal community, but this fascinating look at the critical impact of legal issues and lawyers on the war is for all students of Civil War history.

***An Illustrated Guide to Virginia’s Confederate Monuments***, by Timothy S. Sedore. Hardcover. Maps, photographs, appendices, index, 336 pp., 2011, Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale, IL.



Hard to believe, but in the myriad of Civil War guides lining bookstore shelves, this is the first guide to Confederate memorials in Virginia, the state that saw more battles than any other and suffered 17,000 dead. The author meticulously researched and photographed 360 monuments, from the legendary to the obscure, and provides valuable historical context and interpretation for each.

The quality of the author’s writing, his insight, thoughtful organization and scholarly analysis make this more than just a guidebook: It’s a riveting story of how the post-war South reconciled its loss. This comprehensive book deserves a place on any Civil War bookshelf.

## Calendar of Events

### **Through October, Exhibit, Frederick, MD**

“The Trent Affair: A Crisis in International Diplomacy” explores the political turmoil of late 1861 and Britain’s relationship with the Confederacy. Monocacy National Battlefield Visitor Center, 301-662-3515, [www.nps.gov/mono](http://www.nps.gov/mono).

### **Oct. 8 & 9, Railroad Days, Baltimore MD**

B&O Railroad Museum “Railfest Steam Days” featuring operating steam engines. Guided Civil War exhibit tours, encampment, train ride, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine Volunteer Infantry, Co. E, demonstrations For information, 410-752-2490; [www.borail.org](http://www.borail.org)

### **Oct. 8-10, Battlefield Excursion, Washington, DC**

“Excursion to Civil War Washington, 1861 – the outbreak of War,” Meade Society. Information: Jerry McCormick, 215-848-7753, [gedwinmc@msn.com](mailto:gedwinmc@msn.com).

### **Oct. 15-16, 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Harper’s Ferry, WV**

“In the Shadow of John Brown: The 1861 Battle of Bolivar Heights,” Harper’s Ferry National Historical Park. Living history, music, ranger-led programs, author presentations. Information: 304-535-6029; [www.nps.gov/hafe](http://www.nps.gov/hafe).

### **Oct. 19-Nov. 15 Lincoln Exhibit, Washington, DC**

“Abraham Lincoln: A man of His Time, A Man for All Times” exhibit at Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center, at President Lincoln & Soldiers’ Home National Monument. Lincoln’s words in speeches, letters and proclamations. Information: 202-829-0436; [www.lincolncottage.org](http://www.lincolncottage.org).

### **Oct. 21-23, 150<sup>th</sup> Reenactment, Leesburg, VA, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-Noon**

First-ever reenactment at Ball’s Bluff Battlefield Regional Park, site of Oct. 21, 1861 battle in Leesburg. Sat. battle on original battlefield, evening camp tours, battlefield illumination. Sun. skirmish at Dranesville. Civil War history exhibit. Information & tickets: 703-779-9372; [www.150ballsbluff.com](http://www.150ballsbluff.com).

### **Oct. 29, Civil War Festival, Sharpsburg, MD**

Civil War Festival at Green Hill Farm. Reenactment, ghost stories, music, horse-pulled tour, \$10 admission. Period dress requested. Information: 304-279-0016; [www.GHfarm.webs.com](http://www.GHfarm.webs.com).

### **Through 2011, Lincoln Exhibit, Baltimore, MD**

“Riots, Railroads and the Coming of Mr. Lincoln” on Lincoln’s trips through Baltimore en route to his inauguration, Gettysburg, and funeral. At the Sports Legend Museum at Camden Station. Information: 410-727-1539; [www.baberuthmuseum.com](http://www.baberuthmuseum.com).

### **Through 2011, Civil War Exhibit, Alexandria, VA**

“Nurses, Spies & Soldiers: The Civil War at the Carlyle House,” a former Union hospital in historic Alexandria. 703-549-2997, [www.nvrpa.org](http://www.nvrpa.org).

## Ramblings from the Raffle Table

Friends, since we will be meeting at the new Frederick Visitor Center in October, we will NOT hold our usual Raffles. We will use that time to tour the Center. However, if you are planning to donate anything to our cause at this meeting, find me or any Board member and we will gladly accept your donation.

We will be back in operation at our November meeting. Check the November Banner's Ramblings from the Raffle Table for all our Raffle news then!

Thank you all for your cooperation, and for your continued support of, and participation in, FCCWRT Raffles.

**Dottie**

## Special Silent Auction set for December

The FCCWRT extends a "thank you" to longtime member David Reid for his recent donation of a number of items to be used in the fund raising raffles conducted at each of our meetings. The income from these monthly raffles, conducted by Dottie Toms, supports Civil War preservation and education programs in the community. Our current project is an historical marker, part of the Civil War Trails program, that describes the phase of the Battle of Monocacy that occurred on the west side of Frederick. One of the premiere items donated by David



Reid is an eight-volume set of books by Allen Nevins (1950) that chronicles the Civil War from the initial unrest in the 1850s through Lincoln's election, the war years, and the Union victory in 1865. This classic set of books will be available at a silent auction at our December meeting.

## FCCWRT elects board members for 2011-2012

Pictured at right are our newly elected Board Members for the 2011-2012 season. From left: Donnie Toms, President; Jeff Arey, Director; Jack



Sheriff, Archivist; Dottie Toms, Director; Phil Dean, Vice President; Jim Enright, Secretary; Bob Kozak, Treasurer; and, Jack Brennan, webmaster.

## 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

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

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

**FCCWRT**

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

[www.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org](http://www.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org)

**1861** (continued from Page 1)

"We stand on this battlefield today," Jarvis said, "because we understand that in addition to celebrating our greatest achievements, we must commemorate our most somber moments. . . In the darkest days of the war, Abraham Lincoln said, 'If we could first know where we are, and wither we are tending, we could then better judge what to do , and how to do it.' That is the relevance of history. There, also lies the power of our Civil War sites."

At Manassas and at hundreds of other battlefield parks, the nation learned about paying the price of standing up for ideals, Jarvis continued. "The National Park Service is proud to be steward of that legacy. . . to pass its story on to future generations. It is our birthright as a nation purchased at an unimaginable cost, and one that we will care for with all the reverence it demands."