



Banner of the Blue and Gray

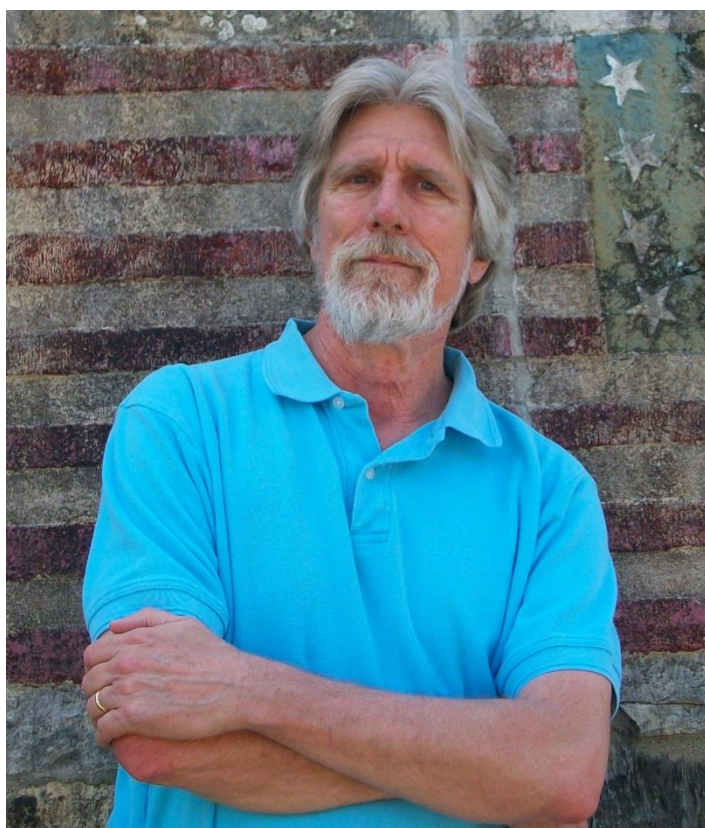
Newsletter of the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable Frederick, Maryland
Founded January 30, 1989

256th Meeting

January 2017

Volume 43, Issue 5

January 19, 2017, 7:00 PM National Museum of Civil War Medicine 48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland



Speaker: Steven R. Stotelmyer

Topic: Lincoln and McClellan

Steven R. Stotelmyer is a native of Hagerstown, Maryland. As a child he played among the monuments at Antietam National Battlefield during many family picnics to that area. After a stint in the U.S. Navy he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Frostburg State College and a Master of Arts from Hood College in Frederick Maryland. He has worked as a teacher, surveyor, and civil engineer. Always interested in local history, especially South Mountain and Antietam, Mr. Stotelmyer was a founding member of the Central Maryland Heritage League in 1989. The league gained a modest amount of success in preserving some of the lands of the South Mountain Battlefield. From 1989 through 1994 Mr. Stotelmyer served as a volunteer at the Antietam National Battlefield. In 1992 he published *The Bivouacs of the Dead: The Story of Those Who Died at Antietam and South Mountain*, Toomey Press, Baltimore Maryland. From 2000 through 2005 Mr. Stotelmyer served as a part-time volunteer and historical consultant for the South Mountain State Battlefield. Steven currently enjoys being a National Park Service Certified Antietam and South Mountain Tour Guide. He will have books for sale after the presentation.



FCCWRT SNOW POLICY

The winter storm season is upon us. Due to foul weather conditions, we may need to cancel our monthly meeting. If Frederick County Schools and/or the National Museum of Civil War Medicine (meeting location) announce closures for the afternoon/evening of the meeting our meeting will be cancelled. We will make every attempt to send an email and Facebook notification as soon as the cancellation decision is made. Please use your best judgment in making safety your top priority.

PREZ SEZ

STATE OF THE FCCWRT-NEW!!!!

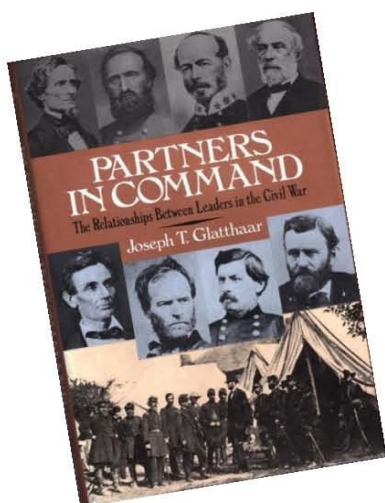
WE HAVE A NEW TIME!!! STARTING JANUARY 19TH OUR MEETINGS WILL BEGIN AT 7:00 PM, SO TRY TO ARRIVE A LITTLE SOONER TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR BOOK RAFFLE. ALSO, NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE WILL BE ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE \$5 TO HEAR OUR PRESENTATIONS.



Ramblings from the Raffle Table

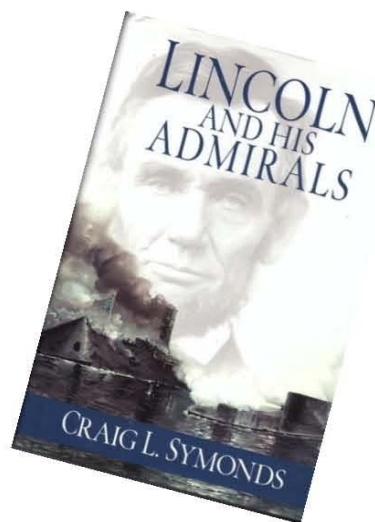


Happy New Year! What a great Holiday Season this has been! I hope yours was filled with family & fun. Sorry about the December meeting cancellation (I had to eat all those cookies myself but I'll bake some more for our January meeting. Do you like Oatmeal or Snickerdoodles?). You probably didn't get any books for Christmas so I've got a great selection to bring for the Raffle Table to make up for that. Here's just a sampling:



War is fought successfully by teamwork, right? (Let me get my tongue out of my cheek before I choke on it....). Oh! The pettiness & politics in the 1860s was perhaps phrased in a more 'gentlemanly fashion' than today but Joseph Glatthaar's Partners in Command will give you an up close and personal looks at the chief personalities of the Conflict. (Why is it that no one on the cover is smiling?!)

Craig Symonds, professor emeritus at the US Naval Academy, is a favorite repeat presenter to our Roundtable. This hardback copy of Lincoln and His Admirals is in pristine condition and belongs in every respectable Civil War library. After all some of the most important Union victories were not fought on battlefields but rather on the rivers and coastlines of the Confederacy.



Looking forward to seeing you all at our January Meeting,

Kathi



NEARBY JANUARY EVENTS

The Monocacy National Battlefield Foundation is looking for new board members. If you are interested please email President Jim Hubbard at jimbobboy43@gmail.com

January 7, 2017 - 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm National Museum of Civil War Medicine- Saving History: Meet the Collections Manager

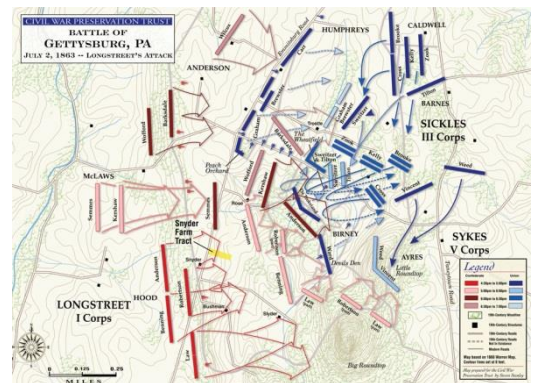
Join Collections Manager Kate McDaniel to find out what happens to artifacts from the minute they come in the door of the museum from initial quarantine, documentation, conservation, and storage to presentation in an exhibit.

January 24 and 31- Mercy Street Viewing Parties, the Second Season
Contact the National Museum of Civil War Medicine for details.

The following programs are scheduled for the Gettysburg Winter Lecture Series in January:

Saturday, January 7- Longstreet's Counter-march

In one of the more controversial moments of the battle of Gettysburg, Confederate General James Longstreet's men did not attack until mid-afternoon on July 2. This delay possibly cost victory for the Confederacy. Join Ranger Matt Atkinson and explore what we do and do not know about the fateful march. Matt Atkinson, GNMP



Sunday, January 8- A New Birth of Freedom: Abraham Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation

The Emancipation Proclamation remains one of the most misunderstood and controversial events of the American Civil War. Many today still debate its legality and what it accomplished. Did Lincoln truly believe in the document, or was it simply a war measure meant to end the war quicker? What did the Emancipation Proclamation do and what did it mean? Join Ranger Dan Vermilya to address these questions and more, as we discuss what Lincoln called "the central act of my administration, and the great event of the 19th century." Daniel Vermilya, Gettysburg NMP

Saturday, January 14- Is Gettysburg America's Epic Tale, Central to Our National Identity?

Throughout the history of civilization, the most significant nation-states and empires have celebrated an epic war story that formed the core of their identity. Whether it was Homer's Iliad in Greece, Virgil's Aeneid in Rome, the Hebrew Exodus from Egypt or England's Beowulf and King Arthur, all of these informed and instructed successive generations what it meant to be Greek, Roman, Hebrew or English. Each one imparted great stories that promoted collective heritage and instilled moral lessons on how to live a noble and virtuous life. Each epic story embodied the essence of the people portrayed within its pages. Can the same be said for the Battle of Gettysburg? Does the battle encapsulate the nature of what it is to be an American? Troy Harman, GNMP

Sunday, January 15- Mary Surratt: Guilty or Not Guilty

In 1865, Mary Surratt became the first woman executed by the Federal Government. Join Ranger Karlton Smith and examine Mary Surratt's guilt or innocence in connection with the Lincoln Assassination conspiracy. Was she completely innocent or did she, as stated by President Andrew Johnson "keep the nest that hatched the egg?" Karlton Smith, GNMP

Saturday, January 21- If These Things Could Talk: New Acquisitions

The American Civil War spawned a technological revolution of military arms and equipment. Join Ranger Tom Holbrook and examine original objects from the park's museum collection, many of which have never before been publicly displayed. Tom Holbrook, GNMP

Sunday, January 22- The Battle of Monocacy: The Fight that Saved Washington D.C

On July 9, 1864 Union troops led by General Lew Wallace clashed with Confederate veterans commanded by General Jubal Early. The fighting that would rage outside of Frederick, Maryland that day would be remembered as the battle that saved Washington, D.C. Tracy Evans, Monocacy National Battlefield

Saturday, January 28- Debacle at Balls Bluff: The Battle that Changed the War

On October 21, 1861, Union and Confederate forces fought a bloody battle outside of Leesburg, Virginia. The Union defeat that resulted sent shock-waves throughout the country. Corpses floated down the Potomac River as far as Washington, D.C., the Union commander was imprisoned, and the powerful Committee on the Conduct of the War was created. Join Historian Christopher Gwinn for a look at this momentous and controversial battle. Christopher Gwinn, GNMP

Sunday, January 29- "Vincit Qui Patitur": The Life of an American Armsmaker -Colonel Samuel Colt

The American Civil War saw transformative industrial development on an unprecedented scale. Inventor Samuel Colt obtained his first revolver patent at the age of 22; and during the Civil War, his company manufactured and sold over 375,000 of "The World's Right Arm" to the Union. You may know the guns. But just who was this Hartford boy-genius, and what is his story? Bert Barnett, GNMP

This list is by no means all inclusive. You can always use our Facebook page to connect with members taking their own tours during the month. The winter is a great time to explore local battlefields without the crowds of foliage that can block views. What better way to explore local battlefields and historic sites than to go with your fellow members!

BOOK REVIEW by Matt Borders

Stephen Fox, *Wolf of the Deep: Raphael Semmes and the Notorious Confederate Raider CSS Alabama*. 317 pp. photos, notes, bibliography, index. \$25.95 (hardback), \$14.95 (paper), ISBN: 9781400095421

Let me start by saying, *Wolf of the Deep* was a fantastic read. Dr. Fox has, by his own admission, taken on the challenge of writing about a well-known and mythologized character from American history, in this case Raphael Semmes. I'm very pleased to write that he does so with fantastic attention to detail and the historian's eye towards balance. Much of what has been published about Semmes and his most famous vessel, CSS Alabama, has been done so to either vilify or deify him. Semmes was extensively written about in both Northern and Southern papers during the American Civil War, a source that has been rarely looked at until now. Dr. Fox finds the common ground between these often very divergent stories about Semmes and his ship to give us a better understanding of what actually occurred out on the waves.

Another source on Semmes, many of which have been used extensively over the years by previous authors, are the writings from the Alabama's officers themselves, as well as from Union naval officers trying to catch the illusive privateer. Dr. Fox points out that these writings too had an agenda either to justify the ships actions or to condemn it. Of particular interest to me was the extent of what these writings missed, and how often the officers themselves determined the moral and health of their crew by the officers own experience, not by the experiences of the sailors in the forecandle. While many of Semmes officers write during their various cruises of how well everything is going, Dr. Fox makes it clear that this was the look from the quarterdeck and not from the sailors themselves. The internal strife, near mutinies and desertions discussed in *Wolf of the Deep* make for a fascinating and realistic portrayal of Semmes and his command.

Following the Alabama's fateful clash with the Union sloop-of-war Kearsage off Cherbourg, France, Semmes succeeded in returning to the Confederacy. I was very pleased that this often overlooked portion of Semmes career, as the commander of the James River Squadron, was included, as was his last command of the defenses of Danville, Virginia as a Confederate Brigadier General. Following the end of the war, and the personal upheavals that entailed, Semmes, always a diligent journal writer, put pen to paper once more to develop his memoirs, *Service Afloat, During the War Between the States*, which was published in 1868. This extensive work detailed not only Semmes entire life, but also gave him a platform from which to discuss the differences between the North and the South and the coming of the war.

Wolf of the Deep concludes with a brief chapter on the rediscovery of the Alabama, 123 years after she was sunk. Dr. Fox touches on the ongoing archaeological efforts at the site and the Alabama exhibit that can be seen in Mobile, Alabama; a fitting location for a site commemorating one of the most famous vessels in the Confederate Navy.

We are on Facebook! Please check out our page for timely updates, local events, or comments. Please read and share our posts!



<https://m.facebook.com/fccwrt>

Gary Dyson is our "face" for Facebook.

Help us spread the word about OUR FCCWRT!! We have 117 "likes" to date. This number fluctuates at times. I haven't figured out just why.

Join Facebook. Share posts with friends! You'll get more timely notice of events when you check us out on Facebook. Post things you'd like to share!

Our 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.

Looking Ahead

While our speaker list for this season is set, please let us know of any topics or speakers that you'd like to hear about. We hope to see you at our next meeting, February 18th!

2016-2017 Board of Directors

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For questions, comments or dues, contact:

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While our membership drive is unending it is essentially over for this season. Members that have already renewed have sustained us through this season. At present we don't know what format we will have for next year. We're always looking for new members to join our ranks though as we do not intend to go away.

For those who remembered to renew your FCCWRT membership, thank you! Your dues make it possible for us to continue to fulfill our mission. We can't continue without your support! Please ask your friends to join so we can do even more!

As a member of our group, you'll enjoy these benefits:

- receive the current newsletter
- receive email updates of local events related to Civil War history
- always have a place to be on the third Thursday of the month

Our yearly dues are:

- \$30.00 for an individual
- \$50.00 for a family up to four
- \$5.00 for out of state members and members under 16 years of age