



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

258th Meeting

March 2017

Volume 43, Issue 7

March 16, 2017, 7:00 PM National Museum of Civil War Medicine 48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland



Speaker: Tom Clemens

Topic: *The Maryland Campaign, Vol. 3*

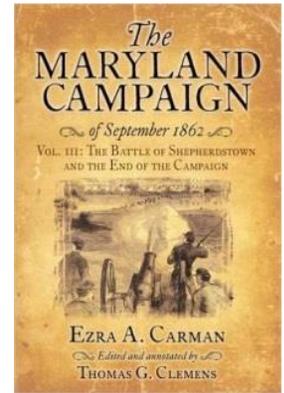
Dr. Thomas G. Clemens received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in history from Salisbury University, and his Doctorate in History Education from George Mason University, where he studied under noted Civil War historian Dr. Joseph L. Harsh. Tom came to Hagerstown in 1978 and spent most of his 34 year career at Hagerstown Community

College teaching American History, retiring in 2012. He has written many book reviews, magazine articles and appeared in several television shows focused on Civil War topics. He edited and annotated General Ezra A. Carman's 1,800 page narrative of the Maryland Campaign of September 1862, which has received awards from the Army Heritage Foundation. The third and final volume will be published soon (and may be available after his presentation). He also wrote a monograph about General Joseph K. F. Mansfield, which was published in *Corps Commanders in Blue* in 2014. His latest article, published in the June 2016 issue of *Civil War Times*, proved the Pry house at Antietam was never McClellan's Headquarters.

Tom is also a founding member and current president of Save Historic Antietam Foundation Inc., a non-profit historic preservation organization. In the past 18 months SHAF and the Civil War Trust have cooperated to purchase four properties and demolish two non-historic structures on the Antietam battlefield, and more structures will be removed from the area next month. Tom is also an Antietam Battlefield Guide with over 30 years of service.

Clemens' third volume in his series is the subject of his presentation. Most causal Civil Warriors assume the battle of Antietam ended the Maryland Campaign of 1862. It did not. Both Robert E.

Lee and George McClellan left Sharpsburg with expectations to continue the campaign. As events proved, the campaign really ended at Shepherdstown Ford on September 20, and thus Ezra Carman included a chapter on the fighting there in his manuscript. He also examined the relationships and travails between President Lincoln, Gen. Henry Halleck and McClellan in the fall of 1862, including the latter's being relieved of command. These issues, and more, are covered in the third and final volume of the Carman manuscript, which will be discussed at the March meeting. Books will be available for purchase after his presentation.



In Case You Missed It.....



At our February meeting University of Maryland Professor Michael Ross continued his presentation (from October 2015) about Reconstruction, covering the end of the Johnson administration to the 1870s. As the end of the war saw a return to leadership of Confederate supporters and a near return to slavery with freed blacks still tied to plantation labor. During the Grant administration the South was divided into military districts which removed the Southern leadership establishment and allowed blacks to vote. Ross explained the rise of the KKK and the extreme violence that targeted would be black voters as well as the influence of "Carpet Baggers" that sought to make the South more like the North. Despite Grant's support of

Reconstruction, later administrations sought to weaken black suffrage and other rights until eventually military enforcement of Reconstruction gradually came to an end. Shortly afterwards the remembrance of the war took a more conciliar tone to the South with numerous monuments being constructed on the great battlefields to both sides and commemorations held honoring all who served. In the end, Reconstruction turned out to be a failure of national policy for racial equality that continued into the 20th century.



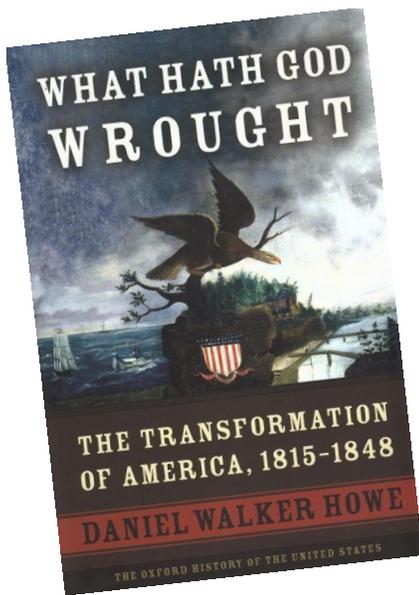
FCCWRT SNOW POLICY

The winter storm season is almost over, but March can be a tricky month for weather types and their predictions. 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.](#)

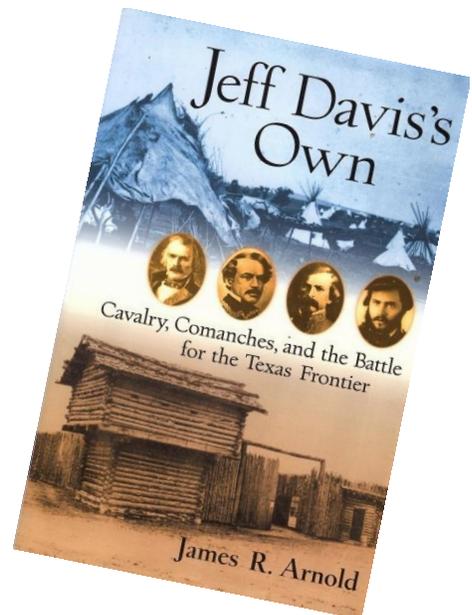
Ramblings from the Raffle Table

Can we hope that March will come in like a Lion and go out like a Lamb? I'd prefer Lamb-like weather all month long. At least March gives us the promise of Spring and Daylight Savings starts on the 12th (in time to make our drive home not quite so dark). With St. Patrick's Day the day after our meeting you can pick up some local brews from the Museum's stock, too. See Jake about that but not until after you buy your Raffle Tickets!



Usually in March I like to feature books about the Irish Brigades but, alas alack, the cupboard is bare. Last month's meeting gave us illumination into the spectacular failure of Reconstruction. This month I present the prequel to the War. History is not isolated events but the ebb & flow of events that arise from human enlightenment, folly, & greed. Without understanding the events in America after the War of 1812 when we finally established ourselves as a nation, we cannot fully comprehend the complexities that lead up to secession in 1861. D.W.Howe's What Hath God Wrought is an insightful study of a period of American history that is too often ignored in the classroom but vital to the comprehension of what nearly split our country in two.

Jeff Davis' Own by James R. Arnold is another prequel about the 1855 US Sect'y of War's establishment of the 2nd Cavalry. This was R.E.Lee's first independent command and you will find a wealth of familiar names within this story of strength, fortitude, and comradeship. Life in the wildness of western Texas in the mid-1850s forged friendships that would later be tried by a conflagration ignited and extinguished within a decade.



Wishing you all a Happy St. Patrick's Day!
Kathi

NEARBY MARCH EVENTS

Saturday, March 4, 2017 8:30 am-4:00 pm – Master Docent Series

The Frederick Historic Sites Consortium presents the annual Master Docent Series on the campus of Frederick Community College, 7932 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, Maryland. Enjoy a day of workshops on history and related topics. While the workshops are geared towards local museum docents, anyone who loves history is invited to participate. Special Points of Interest for 2017 include Storytelling, Industry in Frederick County, and Using Technology to engage audiences

March 4- Bus tour, “Civil War Battles at Kelly’s Ford and Bristoe Station,” 7:45 am-7 pm. \$190. A Smithsonian tour with Ed Bearss will leave from 550 C St SW, Washington. smithsonianassociates.org (click Civil War).

March 4- Lecture, “Nurse Cornelia Hancock,” at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 2:30 pm. Free with admission. civilwarmed.org

March 11- National Museum of Civil War Medicine, at 9:00 AM . A one-day symposium for Civil War scholars, living historians, and museum volunteers.

March 12- Lecture, “Farms of Gettysburg: Lydia Leister Farm,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1 pm. Free. nps.gov/gett/planyourvisit/interpretation.htm

March 18- Hike, “The Irish Brigade at Antietam,” at the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg. 1-3 pm. Free with park admission. nps.gov/anti

March 18- Symposium, “The Environment in the Civil War,” lectures and panel at the Seminary Ridge Museum in Gettysburg. 8:30 am-5:15 pm. \$100. seminaryridgemuseum.weebly.com

March 18- Lecture, “Farms of Gettysburg: William Culp Farm,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1 pm. Free. nps.gov/gett/planyourvisit/interpretation.htm

March 19- Lecture, “Farms of Gettysburg: George Weikert Farm,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1 pm. Free. nps.gov/gett/planyourvisit/interpretation.htm

March 25- Lecture, “Farms of Gettysburg: Basil Biggs Farm,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1 pm. Free. nps.gov/gett/planyourvisit/interpretation.htm

March 26- Lecture, “Farms of Gettysburg: Abraham Brian Farm,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1 pm. Free. nps.gov/gett/planyourvisit/interpretation.htm

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. Warmer weather means more events, and you can find more at these and other sites: <http://www.civilwarnews.com/>, <http://www.civilwar.com/>, and <http://www.civilwartraveler.com/events/>. I use the latter site heavily.

BOOK REVIEW by Matt Borders

Michael Zatarga, *The Battle of Roanoke Island: Burnside and the Fight for North Carolina*. 176 pp. photos, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$17.30 (paper), ISBN: 1626199019

The much maligned Union General Ambrose Burnside, and his 1862 Carolina Campaign has been an interest of mine for a number of years. Often overlooked by history due to its proximity to both the Peninsula Campaign and the Battle of Shiloh, the Campaign for the North Carolina Coast was an excellent example of cooperation between the branches of the Federal military. The Army and Navy worked together in a joint operation that saw the first use of an amphibious assault in the war.

Mr. Zatarga has captured those heady days of early 1862 in a well written, fast paced history for Arcadia Publishing's Sesquicentennial Series. The author dives into not only the difficulties of pulling together Burnside's Expedition, when men and material were being transferred to multiple different fronts and campaigns, but also into the politics of command, particularly with Confederate forces. Burnside had difficulty obtaining the resources he needed to ship approximately 13,000, mostly green troops, the horses and cannons to one of the most notorious areas of the Atlantic Coast, the Outer Banks infamous Graveyard of the Atlantic, but the Confederates had difficulty just establishing a command structure. Multiple Confederate commanders were tasked with the defense of the North Carolina coast line prior to the Federal expedition, including Robert E. Lee and D.H. Hill. The defenses however were plagued with a lack of proper fortifications, artillery of limited value, few trained troops and extremely poor supplies. The constant needs of Richmond saw to it that the coast line was never properly attended to, and multiple commanders were told to make do with what they had. It is little wonder so many were transferred by their own request.

On top of all this was the contending Navies. Both the Union and Confederacy had limited naval resources for this campaign, so much so that Union Flag Officer Goldsborough was using converted coastal tugs, barges and even a purchased luxury liner as gunboats and transports for the expedition. On the other hand the Confederates knew they would be out gunned on the water from the beginning and the seven various vessels of Flag Officer Lynch's command were mockingly referred to as the "Mosquito Fleet" by their shore bound comrades, as they would only be able to annoy their Federal opponents. With all this tonnage afloat it's little wonder the Union Army wanted to get involved, not only with the transport vessels, but also with their own gunboats! My only concern regarding this work is the lack of proper citation for the many great quotes and comments the book has. I do not blame the author however; Mr. Zatarga is a ranger on the Outer Banks and he undoubtedly knows his stuff. It seems it is an editorial style being used by Arcadia Press and other publishers that are trying to make a "more readable" history book. They do this by not cluttering up the book with end notes or footnotes, but instead have only a bibliography or sometimes material that can found on-line to provide the sources for their work. Regardless of structure however this is an excellent read for anyone interested in the Civil War, North Carolina or maritime history.

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 122 "likes" to date. This number fluctuates at times, sometimes for no apparent reason and sometimes when certain topics are mentioned.

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, April 20th!

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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

