



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

260th Meeting

May 2017

Volume 43, Issue 9

May 18, 2017, 7:00 PM National Museum of Civil War Medicine 48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland



Speaker: Gene Schmiel

Topic: Citizen-General: Jacob Dolson Cox and the Civil War Era

Eugene D. (Gene) Schmiel is a retired U.S. Department of State Foreign Service Officer, who now works part-time at the Department of State. A native of Cleveland, he was an Assistant Professor of History at St. Francis University (PA) before joining the Foreign Service. Schmiel has a Ph.D. degree in History from The Ohio State University, and he was an Assistant Professor of History at St. Francis University (PA) for four years. He coauthored with his wife Kathryn a book about life in the foreign service. His book, "Citizen-General: Jacob Dolson Cox and the Civil War Era," was published by Ohio University Press in 2014

My topic is "Jacob Dolson Cox and the Union command in the Maryland Campaign." In my talk, I will focus both on Cox's life and his experiences in and writings about that Campaign, where he was the most successful commander at the Battle of South Mountain and commanded the left wing of the Union army at Antietam. I will give special emphasis to the controversy over Union command surrounding Union generals McClellan, Burnside, and Fitz-John Porter and their actions and decisions during and after the campaign.



In Case You Missed It.....

On April 20th our speaker was Nancy Householder presenting "Monument Madness," describing many of the monuments of Gettysburg and the stories behind them. These monuments are so much more than blocks of stone. Some mark the specific locations of officers killed during the battle and some are more memorials than monuments. Styles of markers may be identified to certain time periods. The more plain monuments date to the 1880s while more ornate ones are of more recent placement. Some monuments were placed before the "official rules" were declared. All monuments with figures now face the "enemy" of 1863, and some older ones were turned around in later years to comply with requirements. Monuments (Yankee) were required to note corps and division associations and a few of these were

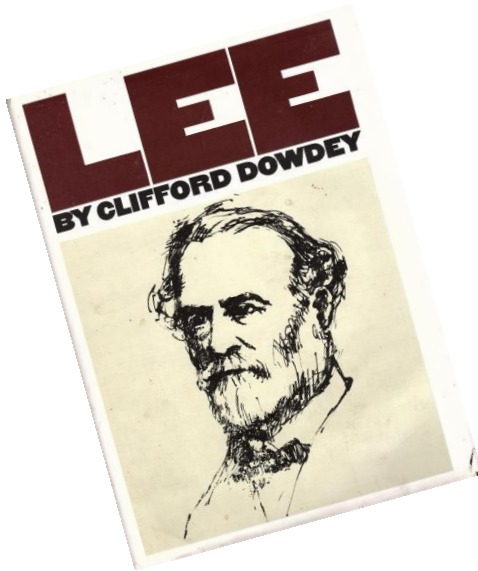
even color coded for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd division. The creation of these color codes was the brainstorm of Union General Phil Kearney. Regular Army unit monuments do not have these designations. No confederate monuments were placed until the 20th century. All monuments that detail casualties were required to conform to the Official Records for numbers given. Wisconsin monuments are easily distinguished since they all have some pink granite. Unit monuments were required to have inscriptions on them that explained their role in the battle and be placed where they began their movements in line of battle. To dispel a popular myth, there is no significance to the number or horse's hooves "in the air" with their mounted owners. The next time you're at Gettysburg, take time to look at monuments with all their symbols and shapes to understand all that went into their placement.



Ramblings from the Raffle Table

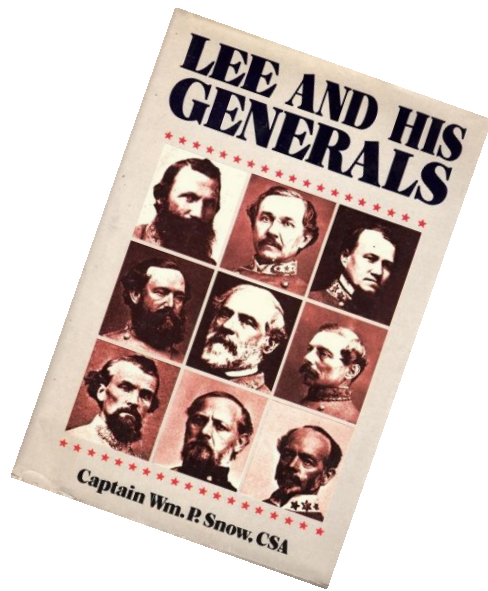
Our last meeting of the season is fast approaching. How time flies when you are having fun! We have had a wonderful year with some fantastic speakers!

I'm declaring our May raffle selections "Celebrate Robert E. Lee Month" featuring a two great studies of the Man and those he commanded. I am not just whistling Dixie here! This man is an American Icon, a name recognized and respected by students of the greatest American conflict. His name is spoken in reverence and not just by those who dwell on the southern shores of our river. He and George Washington are at the top of most people's list of greatest Americans. His leadership abilities were present from Harper's Ferry to Appomattox. Can there ever be enough written about him?



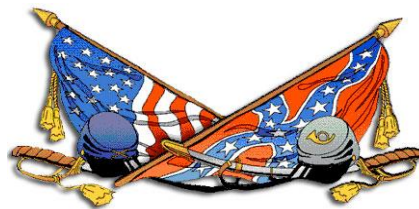
Clifford Downey's LEE brings the many facets of the man into one concise volume to be savored by the lucky ticket holder. A must read!

Lee and His Generals is a contemporary work by Captain William P. Snow first published in 1867. Snow wrote a passionate and personal (and biased) account of the intense group of individuals united under Lee's command and the Man himself. Outnumbered and outsupplied these men all were the inspirational leaders of the soldiers of the Confederacy.



As our season draws to a close, I want to personally thank all of you for your continued support of not just the book raffle but our Frederick County Civil War Roundtable.

Thank you, Kathi



NEARBY MAY EVENTS

May 13- Battlefield hikes at the Monocacy National Battlefield in Frederick. Two-hour ranger-guided tours of different parts of the battlefield begin at 9 and 11:30 am and 2 pm. Free. nps.gov/mono

May 27-28 - 24th NC, Co. B Living Historians will present firing demos and camp set up at the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg. . Demonstrations 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm Saturday; 11 am and 1 pm Sunday. Free with park admission. nps.gov/anti

Programs at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, 48 East Patrick Street, Frederick, MD 21701

May 6 at 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm One Vast Hospital – A downtown Frederick walking tour. [McClellan Frederick 1200.jpg](http://McClellanFrederick1200.jpg) Understand downtown Frederick's role as a makeshift hospital in the final months of 1862 (Pay-What-You-Please). National Museum of Civil War Medicine, 48 East Patrick Street, Frederick, MD 21701

May 9 at 7:00 PM- "A Peculiar Functional Disorder:" Irritable and the American Civil War. Ashley Bowen-Murphy will discuss irritable heart, a cardiac condition found in Civil War soldiers. National Museum of Civil War Medicine, 48 East Patrick Street, Frederick, MD 21701

May 9 at 7:00 PM- Too Afraid to Cry: Maryland Civilians in the Antietam Campaign
Learn about the inhabitants of Sharpsburg before, during and after the battle of Antietam. Sharpsburg Library/Washington County Free Library
106 East Main Street
Sharpsburg, MD 21782

May 21 at 3:00 PM- The Day After – September 18, 1862
Mike Galloway will discuss the important events that took place the day after the Battle of Antietam on the blood-soaked fields along the banks of Antietam Creek. Pry House Field Hospital Museum, 18906 Shepherdstown Pike, Keedysville, MD 21756

For Gettysburg events, go to nps.gov/gett/planyourvisit/interpretation.htm. There is something happening there just about every weekend, from lectures to battlefield hikes. As the temperatures rise, so do the crowds! The big annual reenactment is on July 1-3 with a makeup date later. This event is not associated with the NMP and is on private property.

This list is by no means all inclusive. 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. You can always use our Facebook page to connect with members taking their own tours during the month. What better way to explore local battlefields and historic sites than to go with your fellow members!

BOOK REVIEW by Matt Borders

Edited by William Gilfillian Gavin, *Infantryman Pettit: The Civil War Letters of Corporal Frederick Pettit*. 196 pp. photos, notes, bibliography, index. ISBN: 038071437X

It had been a while since I had read a soldier's collection of letters and *Infantryman Pettit* was a great reintroduction to this writing format. The editor, William Gavin, has done an excellent job placing the letters into order, expanding on the author's observations when necessary, and filling in some of the holes in the letter chain using a diary that was also kept by Corporal Frederick Pettit. While the editor does stray into some well-trod opinions regarding various officers of the Union army, this is not terribly surprising as the work was first published in 1990.

Frederick Pettit's writings are full of detail regarding the terrain he passes through, the trial and strain of the march and of course the thrill of combat. I was pleasantly surprised to find that Frederick Pettit had enlisted in the famous 100th Pennsylvania Infantry, the Roundheads, as they were known. The regiment's nickname was derived from the fact that it was made up of men with English and Scottish ancestry, ancestors who had supported the Parliament in the English Civil War, the "Roundheads" who fought against King Charles I supporters, the "Cavaliers".

It was very interesting to read how Infantryman Pettit enlisted in the 100th PA in the late summer of 1862 and caught up with the regiment outside of Frederick, Maryland as the IX Corps and the rest of the Army of the Potomac was pursuing Confederate forces into Western Maryland at the beginning of the 1862 Maryland Campaign. By this point in their existence the 100th PA was already a veteran regiment, having fought with what would become the IX Corps during the 1862 Burnside Expedition along the Carolina Coast and down towards Charleston, South Carolina. After being moved back north the Roundheads were involved in the 2nd Battle of Bull Run and Chantilly, just prior to the Maryland Campaign.

The long marches described by Pettit throughout the work seem to have been the lot of the IX Corps. The IX was moved westward following the Fredericksburg Campaign and the failed Mud March, two events the Roundheads were able to just barely miss, and elements of the IX Corps were even involved in the Siege of Vicksburg and Jackson, Mississippi in the Spring and Summer of 1863! While Pettit stayed remarkably healthy during the majority of his service, the 100th PA's time in Mississippi was very hard on the regiment due to sickness and all were glad to leave the state behind. Their travels did not end however as the IX Corps went on to play important roles in the Knoxville Campaign in Eastern Tennessee, prior to being returned to the Army of the Potomac just in time for the 1864 Overland Campaign. The IX and the Roundheads remained with the Army of the Potomac until the end of their service.

There have been dozens, if not hundreds, of new, fascinating works on the Civil War these past few years. Sometimes though it is good to look back at the smaller works that you might have missed, and *Infantryman Pettit*, is one such work. The thoughts and observations of the infantryman, the common soldier, are set out for us, giving us insight into camp, the march and the men who made up these regiments in the most intimate way possible, through their own words.

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 134 "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

Over the summer the members of the board will be scheduling speakers for the next season as well as determining how our group will function. Stay tuned for details!

2016-2017 Board of Directors

Jack Sheriff, President
301-371-4148 jbsheriff1@comcast.net

Bob Kozak, Treasurer/ Vice President
301-644-1396 KZAKR@aol.com

Matt Borders, Webmaster/ Secretary
mborders@comcast.net

Kathi Donatucci, Raffle Table
301-874-0197 corsair45@comcast.net

Joe Collins, At Large
froggyjoe@aol.com

Gary Dyson, Facebook, Newsletter
gldyson@comcast.net

Tom Dumm, At Large
thomas.dumm@obg.com

For questions, comments or dues, contact:

FCCWRT

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

www.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org

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