



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

261st Meeting

September 2017

Volume 44, Issue 1

September 21, 2017, 7:00 PM National Museum of Civil War Medicine 48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland



Speaker: Mary Mannix

Topic: Researching Your Civil War Ancestors

Is there an undiscovered Yank or Reb lurking in your family tree? Mary Mannix will be sharing her professional genealogical expertise on how to discover and uncover the mysteries locked in your family tree. Whether you are wondering about your grandmother or seventeenth great-grandfather she knows the insider's techniques and tricks to unearthing who they were and the lives they led. She will be opening pathways to discovery and perhaps new mysteries in your personal story. Mary is the Maryland Room Manager of the C. Burr Artz Public Library in downtown Frederick She holds an MLS from the University of Maryland, the 2011 winner of ALA's Genealogical Publishing Company Award, and the recipient in 2015 of the Martha Washington Medal by the Sgt. Lawrence Everart Chapter of the SAR (Sons of the American Revolution). While the Maryland Room specializes in local research, there is a large range of materials, real as well as virtual, to be utilized.

Mary is the Maryland Room Manager of the C. Burr Artz Public Library of the Frederick County Public Libraries, a position she has held since 1998. For eleven years she was the Library Director of the Howard County (MD) Historical Society. She has also held positions at the Lilienfeld Library of The Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and the Maryland Historical Society. She holds a MLS from the University of Maryland, College Park and an MA in American History from the University of Delaware with a certificate in Museum Studies. Mary is very active in MARAC (the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference) and is in her fourth term as Vice Chair/Meetings Coordinator. She also had been very involved in the History Section of RUSA and was the 2011 winner of ALA's Genealogical Publishing Company Award for service to the profession. In 2015

she was given the Martha Washington Medal from the Sergeant Lawrence Everhart Chapter of the Maryland Society of Sons of the American Revolution. She has taught genealogy librarianship at the University of Maryland and public history courses at Hood College.



New Board Member Elections

At our September meeting there will be an election by members present to determine our FCCWRT Board members for the next season. Most current board positions will remain unchanged, but there is a bit of a shuffle as well as a new addition. The following posts are proposed:

Matt Borders, President/ Webmaster

Bob Kozak, Treasurer

Kathi Donatucci, Vice President

Gary Dyson, Facebook/ Newsletter/ Secretary

Lucy Tanozzini, Book Raffle

Joe Collins, At Large

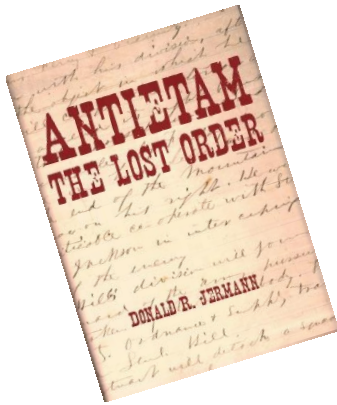
Jack Sheriff, At Large

Tom Dumm, At Large

Todd Morris, At Large

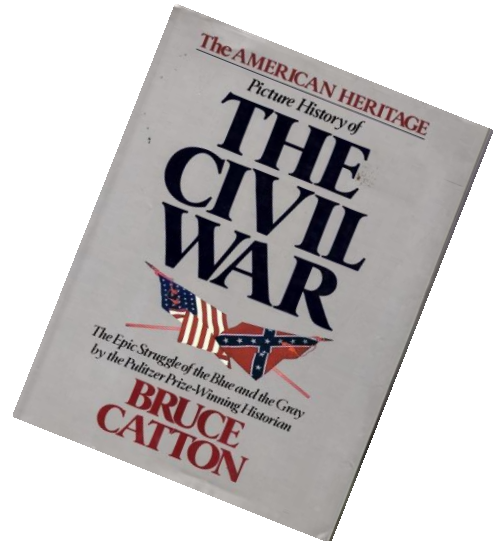
Ramblings from the Raffle Table

The cooler days of Autumn are always welcome after the scorching days of Summer. As squirrels scurry around storing acorns for winter feasts we begin another season at the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable by offering Civil War reading materials for those long chilly nights ahead.



September 1862 is burned into our nation's memory for the "bloodiest day" in American History. Frederick played a pivotal role in this when cigars wrapped in Lee's Special Order #191 were discovered by two Indiana soldiers bivouacked east of town near the present day Monocacy Battlefield visitor's center. Capt. Donald R. Jermann's *Antietam: the Lost Order* is a compelling story of a military mishap right in our own backyard.

American Heritage records this epic struggle through a compilation of illustrations from rough charcoal sketches to early photography to large scale oil paintings. The War is visually recorded and skillfully narrated by Pulitzer Prize winning historian Bruce Catton in this classic volume of the Civil War. This is an excellent addition to any Civil War scholar's library or a stimulating tome for the fledgling historian.



As always, **Thank You** for your continued support of our Roundtable. Your contributions of gently read books and the monthly purchasing of raffle tickets helps us to fulfill our mission of bringing educational speakers to the Frederick area and thereby keeping alive the spirit of the war that shaped America.

Kathi



NEARBY SEPTEMBER EVENTS

September 2 from 3-4 pm- Frederick Occupied: A Downtown Frederick Walking Tour. Begins at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, 48 East Patrick Street.

September 11 at 7 PM- Double Feature: Maryland's Heart of the Civil War & Barbara Fritchie, Frederick Visitor Center, 151 S. East St., Frederick, MD 21701

Join the Frederick Visitor Center for a double-feature film event: "Maryland's Heart of the Civil War" and a short documentary entitled "Barbara Fritchie." Guest speaker Chris Haugh, Community Relations and Historic Preservation Manager at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

25th Annual Conference on Civil War Medicine

September 14 at 5:30 pm - September 17 at 1:00 pm, Clarion Hotel in Shepherdstown, WV.

The Annual Conference on Civil War Medicine brings together scholars, practitioners, and amateur historians from across the globe to discuss the history of Civil War medicine and its enduring impact today. Contact joanna.jennings@civilwarmed.org for more information.

September 16-17- One Fort, Three Wars

Through living history demonstrations discover the part Fort Frederick played during the French and Indian War, American Revolution and Civil War. Hours are 10 am to 4 pm. Cost \$3 per car for Maryland residents, \$5 for out-of-state visitors.

September 16-17- Battle Anniversary Weekend

Join Antietam National Battlefield for a weekend full of special talks, tours, living history demos, and hikes. This year we will commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Antietam National Cemetery on Sunday, 17th. A full schedule will be posted at a later date. Fee Information: \$10 per car or \$5 per person

Sunday September 17th -150th Anniversary of Antietam National Cemetery Commemoration. The keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Gary Gallagher. Following the conclusion of the program, the names of all those buried in the cemetery will be read with the help of volunteers. Antietam National Cemetery Program begins at 12:00. Reading of names begins at 1:30 (audience participation encouraged).



September 23- Historic Rocky Springs Chapel, 7817 Rocky Springs Road, Frederick, MD 21702

Preacher Kirk Callison, member of Re-enactor's Missions for Jesus Christ (RMJC), will preach in Civil War period attire, use an 1860s version of the Bible, and lead worshipers in singing hymns of the Civil War period. This service will be held on Saturday, September 23. Historic Rocky Springs Chapel can hold a maximum of 100 worshipers, so please let them know if you plan to attend the service by calling (240) 439-4235 or emailing debbymoone@gmail.com.

BOOK REVIEW by Matt Borders

Myron J. Smith, *The USS Carondelet: A Civil War Ironclad on Western Waters*. 225 pp. photos, notes, bibliography, index. \$35.00 (paper), ISBN: 0786445246
Reviewed by Matthew A. D. Borders

In 2006 I was casting about looking for something new to begin researching for my Civil War obsession. I had already done a fair bit with both the main Eastern and Western Theaters and thought myself fairly well versed with the land war and its major players. I was wrong, but regardless I was looking for something new. That's when it struck me; there was a whole branch of service I had done very little with at this point, the navy.

Just looking at a map of Civil War America gives one an impression of just how important the navy was going to be for winning the war. I was drawn to the "brown water navy", the gunboats of the Mississippi Squadron, in part because of their association with many of the battles I had already read about, Forts Henry and Donelson, Island Number Ten, Vicksburg, Port Hudson, the Red River Campaign. All these engagements, and many more I was to learn about, had a major naval component that I had very limited knowledge of. This subject also let me jump into one of the new technologies of the war, the Ironclads.

While the Mississippi Squadron would eventually have some Monitor class Ironclads late in the war, the ironclad vessels that churned the waters of the Ohio, Tennessee, Mississippi and Red, not to mention dozens of other tributaries and bayous, were very different from their turreted cousins. The vessels we now refer to as the City Class ironclads, or Pooks Turtles, after Naval builder Samuel Pook, were heavily armored with slopping plates, and powerful broadsides. The City Class had their heaviest armor and armament in their bow, or the head of the vessel, ready to drive forward into the fray. Of the original seven City Class, the most famous was the Carondelet. This vessel, with her distinctive red bands around her smoke stacks, would have the most extensive combat record of any United States Navy vessel until World War II.

Built over the fall of 1861 and commissioned in early 1862, the Carondelet and her sister vessels had been the brain child of James Eads, a Mississippi River business man, who conveniently put in the winning bid for the vessels construction. These vessels made their debut at Fort Henry, in the winter of 1862, pounding the little flooded fort into submission before the army could engage. They were also heavily engaged at Fort Donelson, where some of the weaknesses to these vessels, being particularly susceptible to plunging fire, was revealed by the large caliber Confederate guns located there.

The City Class, and particularly the Carondelet, proved to be decisive in the development of the Union Navy's river war strategy. This hardy vessel was the first to try, and then perfect, the tactic of running past Confederate posts so as to bring pressure against them not only from above, but also from down river. The Carondelet did this at Island Number Ten and volunteered to do it again at Vicksburg. Over the course of her service she battled Confederate forts, batteries, other ironclads, she helped smash the Confederate fleet at Memphis and shot the rapids during the retreat down the Red River. The fame of the vessel has been sadly forgotten by many students of the war and the author goes into some detail on the ultimate fate of the war weary veteran as well.

The book itself was not easy to find, I only got it this past winter after a long debate over the copy I found on Amazon, and from what I understand it is actually the publication of the authors Master's Thesis. That helps to explain why this book was a bit dry when it first starts out. The author, Myron Smith, goes into intricate detail over the development of the City Class ironclads, their financing, design and construction, all fascinating information, but the first few chapters may be a bit daunting, even for a reader who loves naval history. Fortunately the book picks up pace by chapter 4 and does not slow down until the end of the war. If you are looking for a comprehensive, in depth study of one of the Union's great fighting vessels I highly recommend this book.

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 145 "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, October 19th!

2016-2017 Board of Directors

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

Bob Kozak, Treasurer/ Vice President
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Matt Borders, Webmaster/ Secretary
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Kathi Donatucci, Raffle Table
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Gary Dyson, Facebook, Newsletter
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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

Our membership drive for the 2017-18 season has begun. Please consider renewing your membership as well inviting friends to join. Your membership provides the space for our meetings, attracting well known speakers, and website and P.O. Box maintenance.

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! If we had more members we could do more to promote our Civil War history!

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

You can renew your membership at our meeting or by mail. The membership form is attached and may also be downloaded from our website at <http://www.frederickcountycivilwarrt.org/>.

NEW *or* RENEW ANNUAL FCCWRT MEMBERSHIP



NAME (If family membership, please list all names and email addresses)

STREET ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS/ADDRESSES _____

BEST PHONE NUMBER TO REACH ME _____

NOTE: *We will protect your privacy. None of the above information will be shared.*

ANNUAL DUES: Individual - \$30; Family - \$50 (Please make check payable to FCCWRT)

AMOUNT PAID \$ _____ DATE _____

- I would like to volunteer to assist with registration and other tasks at our monthly meetings
- I am interested in helping with outreach activities

**MAIL TO:
FCCWRT
Box 3232
Frederick, MD 21701**

**For additional information about the FCCWRT and to see meeting dates and times
and our roster of speakers for the season, check our website:**

www.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org