



# Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

264th Meeting

December 2017

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## No Meeting in December



*A Christmas dinner. A scene on the outer picket line* by Edwin Forbes, Library of Congress.

With members and others so busy during the holiday season, the FCCWRT has decided once again not to have a December meeting. Enjoy the season and we hope to see you again in January, 2018!



## In Case You Missed It.....

At our November meeting attendees heard John Michael Priest's presentation on Gettysburg Veterans and PTSD, or as he titled it, "Through Their Weary Eyes: Photographic Images of Combat Fatigue." As a son of a Guadalcanal veteran, Mr. Priest provided personal experience regarding the "thousand yard stare," an expression shared by many who had seen too much in service for their country. Many photographs were presented, including those from more recent wars that could be used for comparisons. Images of soldiers of the 49<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers were of particular

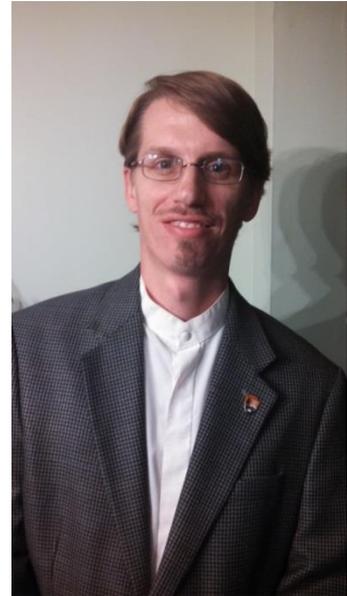
interest to our speaker.



## 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



I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving, with lots of family, friends and food! With the holiday season now in full swing it is important to remember that though Thanksgiving had been celebrated off and on for generations prior to the Civil War, it was not until October 3rd, 1863, that President Abraham Lincoln put out a proclamation that the last Thursday in November would be a National Day of Thanksgiving. It was not until 1941 that Congress, after some prompting by President Roosevelt, locked Thanksgiving in as the 4th Thursday in November.

Though Thanksgiving had only limited appeal in the southern states prior to and during the War, as the years went by it became more and more popular throughout the country. Thanksgiving was used to help bring the two sections of the country back together after the years of civil war and has since become one of the great “American” holidays.

This holiday season take time to remember our nation's history with your friends and loved ones. Take the relatives that are in town to a historic site, give back to your community or just share your family's stories, keeping your own traditions alive and well. We on the board of the Frederick County Civil War Round Table would like to wish you and yours a very happy and healthy holiday season.

~ Matt Borders

## Book Raffle

**The book raffle will return for our January meeting. A sampling of the books to be raffled will be provided in your January newsletter.**

## NEARBY DECEMBER EVENTS

**December 2 at 9 AM, Civil War Holiday Encampment-** Carroll County Farm Museum, 500 S. Center Street Westminster, MD. Kick off the holiday season at the Carroll County Farm Museum with their popular Holiday Encampment. The event will feature a pay muster, mail call, drills, a skirmish and more. Children can help decorate the camp tree. Light holiday-themed refreshments will be available for purchase in the Sugar Plum Shoppe.

**December 2 at 6:00 PM, Antietam National Battlefield Memorial Illumination-**23,000 luminaries will be placed on the field, representing a casualty from the battle.

**December 4 at 7 PM. Shepherdstown Ford and Beyond.** Community Room 308/309. Washington County Free Library. 100 S. Potomac Street, Hagerstown, MD. Thomas Clemens will cover the last battle of the Maryland Campaign of 1862, and the subsequent events through November 7, 1862, when President Lincoln removed General McClellan from the command of the Army of the Potomac. The Maryland Campaign of September 1862, Vol. 3 was edited and annotated by Clemens and has been recently published.

**December 9 at 1 PM. Civil War Church Service-** Steve McCarty at Gettysburg 154th.JPG Attend a Civil War era church service at Rocky Springs Chapel. Historic Rocky Springs Chapel, 7817 Rocky Springs Road, Frederick, MD.

**December 9, Noon-5pm. Museums by Candlelight- Various Locations-** During Museums by Candlelight, special programming and hands-on fun will delight visitors of all ages, and special children's activities are featured at most locations. Participating organizations in this year's Museums by Candlelight event: Brunswick Heritage Museum, Catocin Furnace Historical Society, Central Maryland Heritage League, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Maryland Room, C. Burr Artz Library, Middletown Valley Historical Society, Monocacy National Battlefield, National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Rose Hill Manor Park & Museums, Schifferstadt Architectural Museum, South Mountain Heritage Society, Steiner House, Thurmont Historical Society. <https://www.visitfrederick.org/events/annual-events/museums-by-candlelight/>.

**December 16, "Great Risk of Opium Eating,"** at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 2:30 pm. Free with admission.

**December 26 at 4 PM, Downtown Frederick, Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship,**<https://www.visitfrederick.org/events/annual-events/historic-houses-of-worship/>.

Enjoy the annual Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship this holiday season in Downtown Frederick. This special open house celebrates Frederick's tradition of religious diversity, local history, and the holiday season. Eight of the twelve sites were active congregations during the Civil War. As the sun begins to set, visitors can tour many of Frederick's famous clustered spires and other historic houses of worship by candlelight. At a dozen sites, guests will be welcomed with special programs, angelic choirs, and nativity scenes.

**BOOK REVIEW by Matt Borders. B. Franklin Cooling, *Monocacy: The Battle That Saved Washington*. 335 pp. photos, notes, maps, references. \$11.32 (Hardcover), \$19.95 (Paperback) ISBN: 978-1572490321**

This fall I've had the pleasure of working at Monocacy National Battlefield and thus I have been going back through my Monocacy books. A classic on this little known or appreciated battle is Frank Cooling's *Monocacy: The Battle That Saved Washington*. Cooling's work begins by dropping you right into the preparations for the Third Confederate invasion of the North in the early summer of 1864. The Confederate movements north down the Shenandoah are detailed, as are the variety of personalities in Early's command. Cooling goes into great detail laying out how the Confederate forces approach, skirmish with and ultimately move around the federal garrison at Harper's Ferry. It was interesting to read how the two sides skirmished lightly, but mostly glared at one another, hoping the other side would go on the offensive. When neither side did the Confederates placated themselves by ransacking the depots at Harper's Ferry, helping themselves to the garrison's supplies in celebration of the 4th of July. Once sated, Early's forces moved northwest and crossed the Potomac at Shepherdstown, WV, entering Maryland. Being near once more on the federal side of the river, some of the Confederate commanders took the opportunity to sight see, visiting the old Antietam Battlefield. Confederate Major General John B. Gordon took particular delight in "regaling his youthful staff with past glories," (page 79), about the Confederate defense of the Sunken Road and his own desperate wounding there. A point that Cooling makes abundantly clear in his work is how woefully unprepared the north was for this Confederate thrust. Grant had delegated the capitulation and defense of the Shenandoah Valley to Major Generals Franz Sigel and David Hunter, neither had succeeded. Thus Confederate forces had crossed the Potomac virtually unopposed and Grant and his staff believed that Early and his men were in front of him at Petersburg, Virginia. It was not until July 5th, due to the exasperated demands of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad President John Garrett, that the War Department was awakened to the threat moving through western Maryland towards the National Capital. Once alerted, there was a desperate scramble to put someone in front of Early's advance. This thankless task fell to the disgraced general commanding the backwater Middle Department, Major General Lew Wallace. Wallace's rag tag command of 100 days enlistment and national guard soldiers were reinforced in final hours before the Battle of Monocacy by veterans of the Union VI Corps. This hodgepodge command fought a desperate delaying action on the banks of the Monocacy on July 9th, 1864, thereby buying time for the threatened capital. The aspect that I liked most about *Monocacy: The Battle That Saved Washington* was Cooling's efforts to find great period or near period images. Not only were most of the key players in this national drama shown, but the author went out of his way to find numerous sketches and images of the actual battlefield landscape, long before the modern intrusion of I-270 split the battlefield in half.

The only issue that I have with this work on Monocacy is the author's maps. It seems strange that he was able to compile such a great collection of images, but that all his battlefield maps are condensed, and seem to be hindered by the width of the page. To include all the movements, details are sacrificed, and though he bothers to place individual regiments into line, who they are is not recorded. More recent works such as Ed Bearr's *Monocacy*, do a better job laying out where specific regiments are located on the field and goes into greater depth in who is shooting at who during the battle. Overall, *Monocacy: The Battle That Saved Washington* is a very accessible study of the campaign and Battle of Monocacy. It takes time to place the campaign into the context of the war and the gravity of the threat that Early posed to the National Capital in the summer of 1864. Most importantly of all, the book succeeds in showing how Monocacy WAS the battle that saved Washington.

**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 151 “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. There will be no meeting in December but we hope to see you at our next meeting, January 18, 2018!

#### **2017-2018 Board of Directors**

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**Our membership drive for the 2017-18 season is essentially over, but have room for many more members. 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
- keep alive our Civil War history to pass that just isn't taught much in schools

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/>.